5

夏の前日

吉田基已

good! AFTERNOON KC

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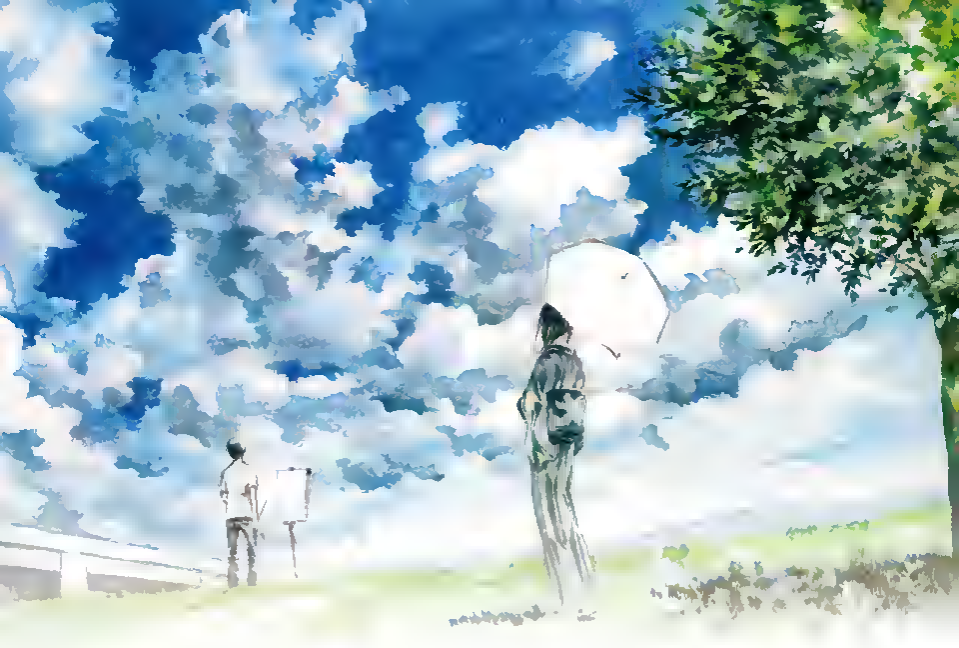
華海は簡単に涙をながし、
「哲生君が彼氏だったらよかった」
と哲生に言った。
晶は決して泣くことはなく、
「しゃあ、またね」
いつもそう言って、哲生を見送った。
孤独に満ちた哲生を愛した晶と
そのやさしさに応えたかった哲生。
それは永遠の片思いのような恋——。



good! AFTERNOON KC

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吉田基已

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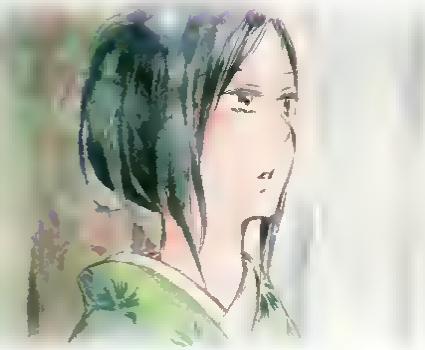
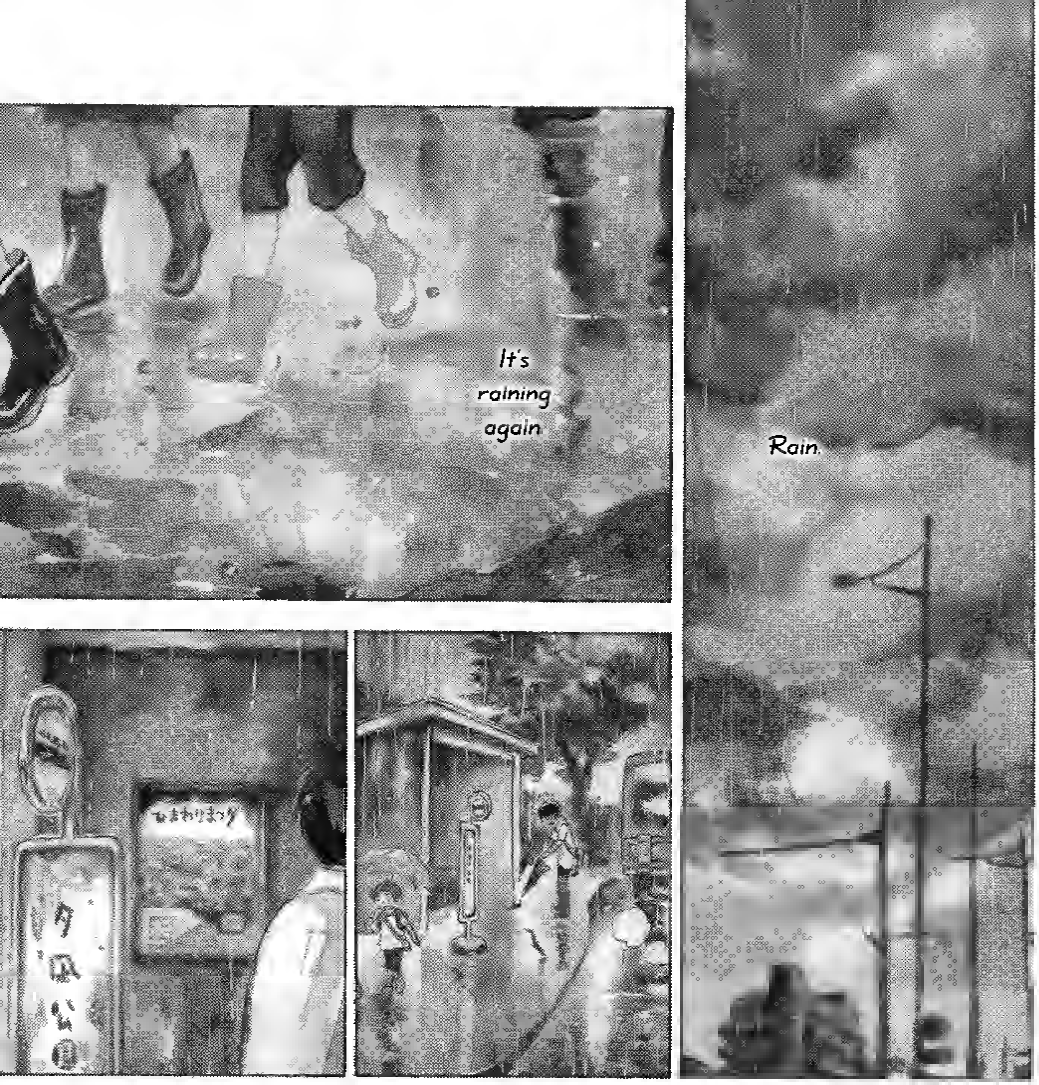


I can imagine it.
Yes
The painting that Tetsuo is drawing is sparkling and bright
It's beautiful.
So very very bright.



CHAPTER 27

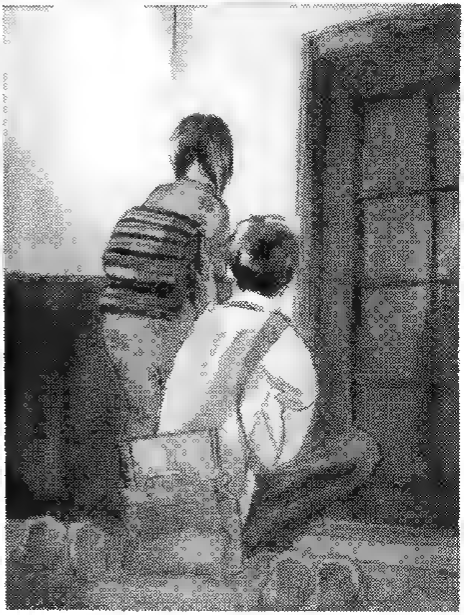
Surely that's something to treasure

...
YEAH.

IT'S RAINING AGAIN...

WELL, I'M HEADING OUT.

HERE.



...THANKS.
HAVE A SAFE TRIP.
This umbrella is brand new
It's always like this
Before I can notice she does so much for me

What the heck was that last night ?
9風繪畫教室
DING~
DONG~
...IN OTHER WORDS, FROM THIS POINT ON, THE CYLINDER DOESN'T CHANGE SHAPE.
SO, IN ORDER TO GRASP THIS IDEA...
WHY DON'T YOU COME ON UP?
WHA-
AH, SOR-
SOR-RY..

Um, I!
I want to study Industrial Design!
NO-
WH-
ER!
TAMURA-KUN, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS KINDA STUFF!
SHOW US WHAT YOU DREW TODAY! SHOW US!
UM,
I...
I-
SHE'S RIGHT! YOURS ALWAYS TURNS OUT GREAT.
Really?! That's so cool!
AND, UH, LIKE FOR ELECTRONICS AND STUFF
L-
LIKE FOR MANUFACTURING
HUH?
INDUS...?
B-BECAUSE I NEED TO GET A LOT BETTER AT THIS...
S-SO I'M NOT REALLY ANY GOOD AT ALL!
THAT'S SO COOL TO HAVE A SET GOAL FOR YOUR FUTURE!
Eh-
N-not-
It's nothing like that...
Yeah
It is nice.
HOW ABOUT WE COMPARE YOUR THREE SKETCHES FROM TODAY, THEN?

A dream for the future...
HE DIDN'T COME?
NAH, APPARENTLY HE GOT ROUNDED UP TO HELP OUT WITH BUILDING A GALLERY.
AOKI -KUN'S NOT HERE.
OKAY, THIS ONE IS DONE.
THEY'RE GOING TO SHOW OFF ALL OF THE GRADUATING STUDENTS' BEST WORKS FOR THE OPEN CAMPUS COMING UP.

DO YOU NEED HELP OVER THERE?
AOKI-KUN, DID YOU NOT LIKE THAT?
HM? IT'S FINE, WE FINISHED UP PRETTY QUICKLY ANYWAY.
NO, I MEAN...
...HAVING TO DISPLAY YOUR FINAL PROJECT.
IT SEEMS KINDA LIKE YOU DIDN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT SHOWING IT OFF OR ANYTHING.
NAH, NOT AT ALL.
ACTUALLY, I REFUSED WHEN THEY FIRST ASKED, YOU KNOW?
I BET YOU'D RATHER SHOW WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON NOW... RIGHT?

I never really considered what would happen after I finished this piece
Come to think of it
DUNNO.
wouldn't Akira be happy about that?
If it turns out really well
Maybe not
...
what's up with this note?
LIVE
Wanna go?

酒
IF WE'RE JUST GONNA SIT HERE AND DRINK ALL NIGHT, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE GONE TO SEE THE CONCERT WITH THEM?
SNIP
...
IT'S FINE.
I'M TALKING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I CAN SUSTAIN MYSELF FINANCIALLY AS AN ARTIST.
WHY'S THAT?
I'M NOT FIT TO BE AN ARTIST.
I JUST CAN'T FIND A MIDDLE GROUND.
EITHER I DRAW, OR I MAKE MONEY.

IS THAT SO?
I SEE...
YEP.
IT'S MUCH EASIER TO IMAGINE YOURSELF EARNING A SALARY AND LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.
YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT!
I THINK I SHOULD AIM FOR A TEACHING LICENSE.
NOT SURE IF I CAN DO IT, THOUGH.
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO END UP DRAWING ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU?
BUT Y'KNOW WHAT?

EVEN IF YOU DO OTHER THINGS...
EVEN IF IT TAKES A LONG TIME...
EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO TAKE BREAKS FROM IT...
YOU'LL DRAW ANYWAY, WON'T YOU?

AOKI-KUN,
IF YOU DO, I'LL BE GLAD.
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU KEPT DRAWING.
JUST FROM THAT.

JUST DON'T STOP DRAWING, OKAY?
ALRIGHT?
DON'T QUIT.

Don't stop, okay?
Aoki-kun...
Don't quit.

pomf
SO HOT...
blink blink
CLANK

It feels like I'm going to drown in all this
sigh
Summer classes at the art school are going to start soon, too.
I've got band practice at noon
Rainy season hasn't started yet, either
A part-time job
I think it was good for me.
that I was forced to do things I normally wouldn't
Building the gallery...
Really...
...even though they're the apposite of what I "should" be doing
AH...
ring
The phone...
ring

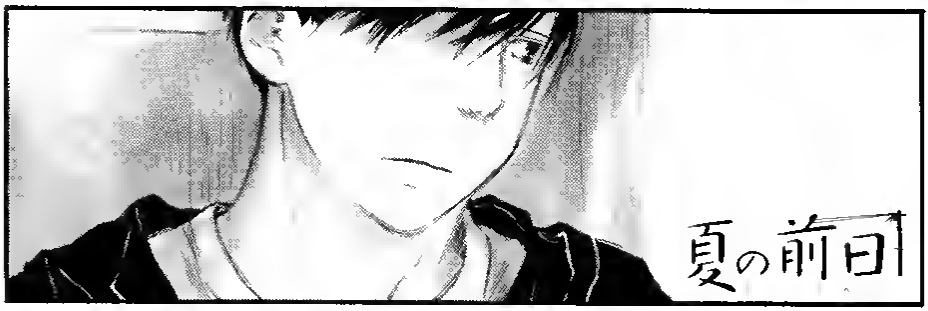
ring ring ring...
Akira...?
patter
pitter
pitter
URGH...
...
WHAT TIME IS IT...
ガチャ
beep beep!
STILL RAINING, HUH.

THAT'S RIGHT.
blink
blink
AH,
JOLT
ring
UH...
YOU HAVE,
NINE
MES-SAGES

...
SO,
WHERE'S YOUR BASS?
STUPID
APPARENTLY, MY FATHER COLLAPSED.
AOKI -KUN!
SORRY.
LATER
I'VE GOTTA HEAD BACK HOME.

AOKI -KUN!!
AOKI -KUN!
WHAT?!
SHOULD I COME, TOO?!
I CAN GO BY MYSELF!
IDIO..
AH...
WELL, I'VE GOT NO MONEY ANYWAY
HOW ABOUT JUST TO THE STATION?

I'M GOOD
ALRIGHT.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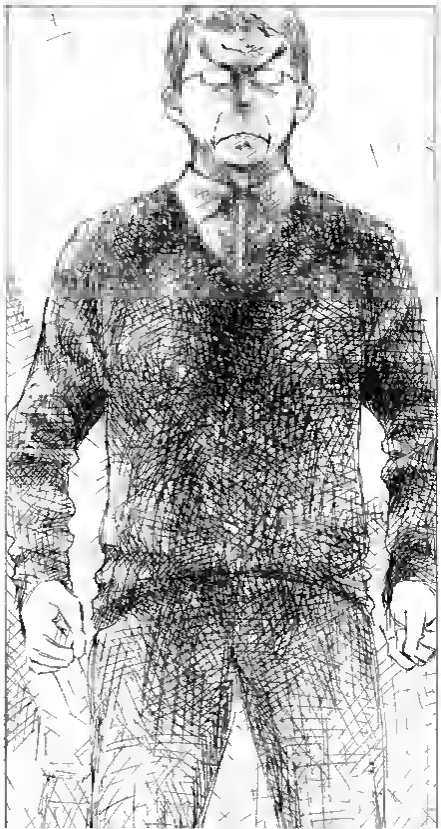
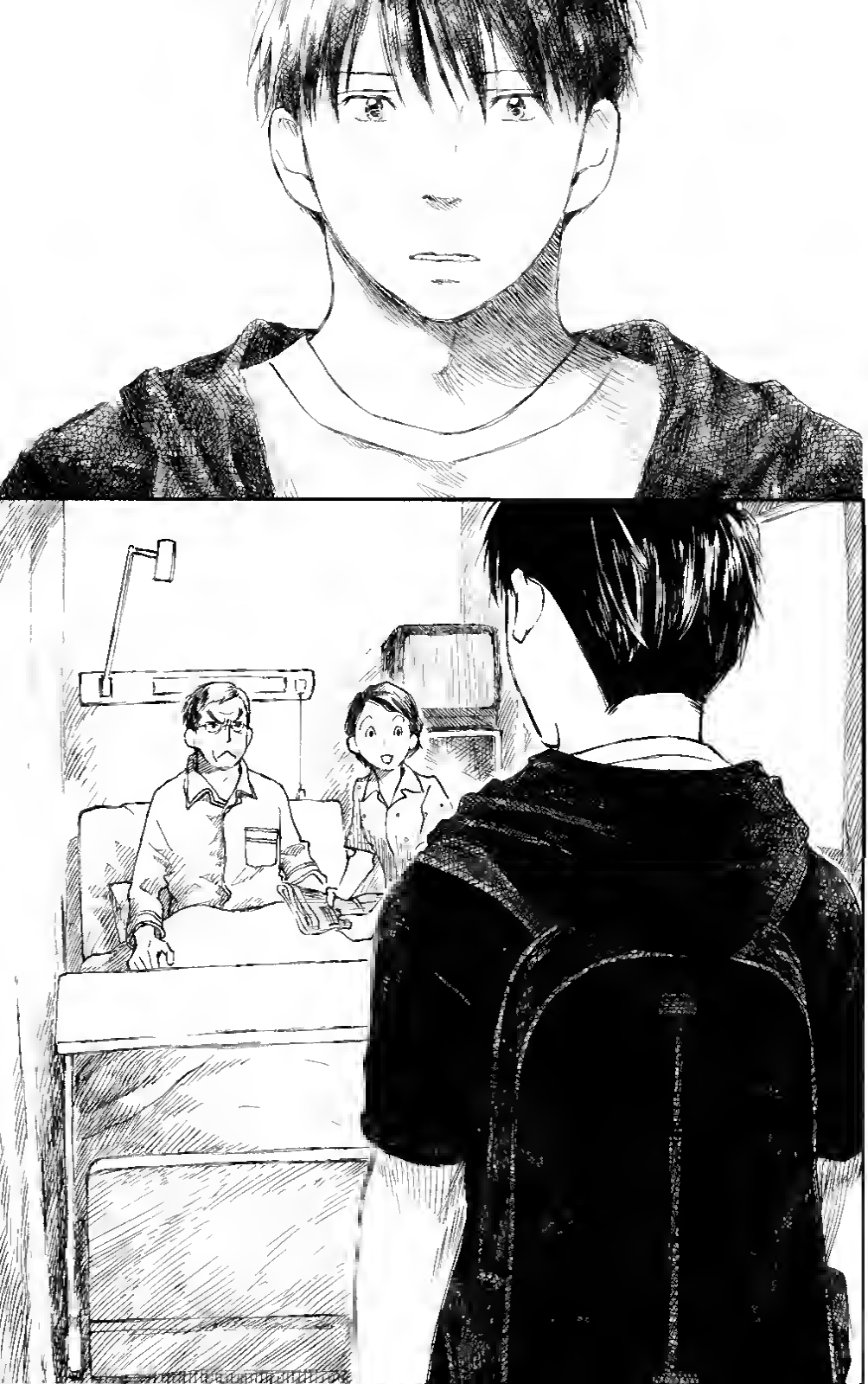


[CHAPTER 28] Repetition



sigh~
24
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
OH, SO THAT REALLY WAS TETSUO?
WHERE WAS HE?!
HE LEFT AS SOON AS HE CAME... WHAT IS THAT CHILD THINKING?
TAKEO! HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR BROTHER?

"He collapsed" is totally misleading from something stupid like "He tripped and fell"!
Shit
WHAT DID HE COME ALL THE WAY HOME FOR?
WAS IT ALRIGHT TO COME? DIDN'T YOU HAVE WORK OR SOMETHING?
My bad, I don't wanna smell like smoke later
Why're you standing so far away just watching me?
...
...

...
THAT'S NICE.
...SO YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME.
WELL, I'M A STUDENT, SO...
SO WE BROUGHT HIM IN TO HAVE IT CHECKED OUT, BUT THEY SAY HE'S FINE.
I BET MOM MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF THINGS AGAIN, DIDN'T SHE?
AH,
YEAH.
HE HIT HIS HIP HARD ENOUGH THAT HE COULDN'T STAND OR WALK ALL NIGHT.
...IS DAD OKAY?
HM?
I WOULDN'T HAVE COME OTHERWISE.
HEY NOW, LET'S NOT MAKE JOKES ABOUT THAT KINDA THING.
HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?

Definitely not going
WE HAVE A RESERVATION FOR 4 TO EAT DINNER WITH MY GIRLFRIEND TONIGHT. SINCE DAD CAN'T MAKE IT, WHY DON'T YOU COME?
I'LL GO GET MY CAR. IT'S A BIT FAR AWAY, SO IT'LL TAKE A WHILE.
HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE.
That kid's doing pretty well
Bringing his girl to eat with our parents huh
I'M GOING TO GO CALL YOUR AUNT.
AND WHERE IS TAKEO? DID YOU SEE HIM? WHERE DID HE PARK HIS CAR?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

Uh...
...
Radio noises
snap snap
Oh, I'm sorry
SATOU-SAN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD YOU PLEASE USE EARPHONES WITH YOUR RADIO?
Radio noises
Silence
SNAP!
...
RUSTLE
...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
UM,
I'M TRYING AS BEST AS I CAN.
PLEASE, TRY NOT TO WORRY.

I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT YOU.
DON'T COME BACK JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO.
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME IF YOU CAN SHOW UP THIS EASILY. SLOPPILY DRESSED, TOO.
RUSTLE
I WON'T COME ANY-MORE

Did you hear from him?
AH, KANA-CHAN IS TAKEO'S GIRLFRIEND.
TETSUO, TODAY WE HAVE RESERVATIONS TO EAT WITH KANA-CHAN.
So do you want to go? It's a really popular place.
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT THE NURSES SAY, OKAY?
OK, DEAR.
MAKE SURE YOUR BELLY DOESN'T GET COLD.
WHAT, IS THAT SCHOOL NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

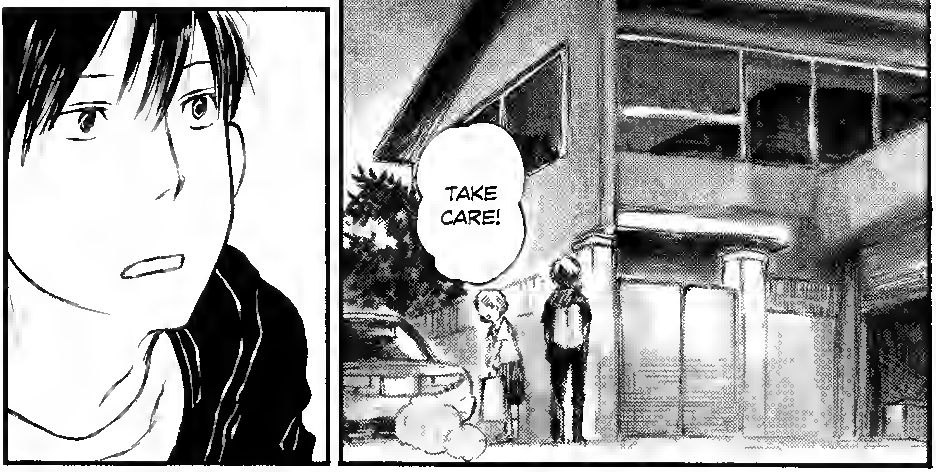
EXACTLY! YOU SHOULD GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY THAT YOUR FATHER WENT TO!
YOU WORKED SO HARD AND PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAM. SO WHY DO YOU WANT TO SKIP A YEAR?
YOU SAID THAT TAKING THE ART SCHOOL EXAM WAS JUST AN IDEA...
NO!
MY FIRST CHOICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO GO TO HIYOSHI.
I KNOW I FAILED THEIR EXAMS,
BUT I WANT TO GO.
NO MATTER WHAT.
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
WHY CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO WHAT I TELL YOU?!

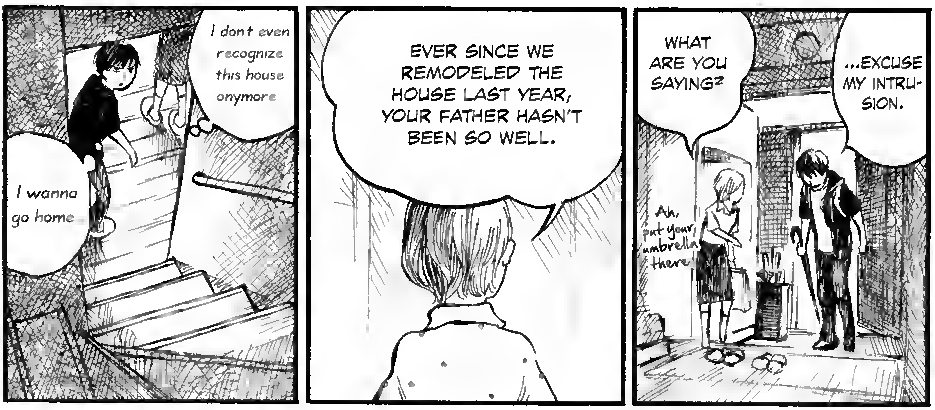
It's true that I wanted nothing more than to go to Hiyoshigaoka

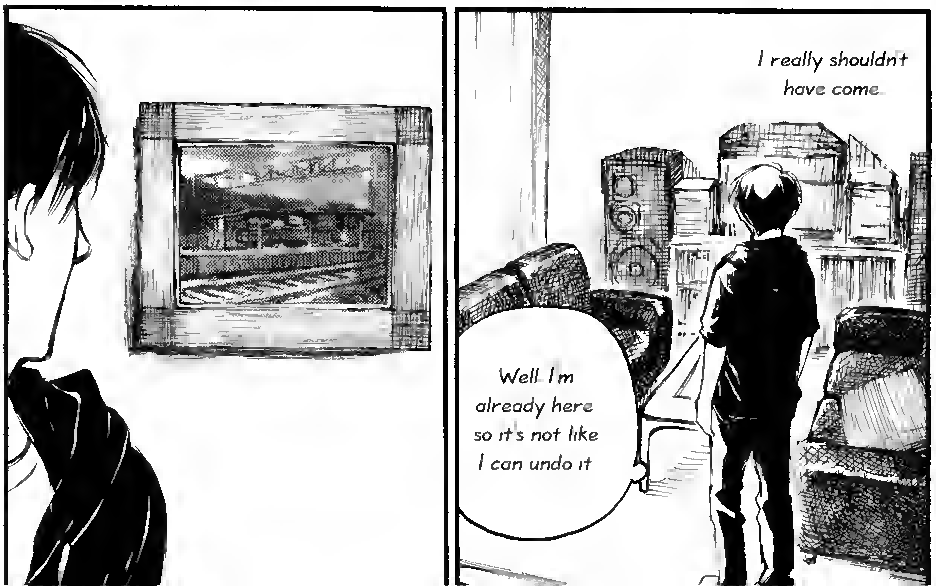
But there were also things that I said because I felt rebellious

I'm really thankful
that they listened to my selfishness
SO TETSUO, I HEARD YOU WON AN AMAZING AWARD.
Sloppy, huh? I guess he doesn't like clothes with hoods

HE GOT FIRST PLACE!!
Tetsuo never picked up the phone no matter how many times I called him, see
I went to see it all by myself
WHA...
THAT'S RIGHT! HE GOT IT FOR HIS GRADUATION PROJECT!
BUT IT WAS STILL HIGHLY REGARDED, RIGHT?
THAT'S AWESOME.
MOM'S SO PROUD OF YOU!
IT WASN'T ACTUALLY FIRST PLACE OR ANY-THING.
SINCE YOU'RE TIRED FROM THE TRAVELLING, JUST TAKE IT EASY AND REST.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TELL KANA.


TAKE CARE!


I don't even recognize this house anymore
I wanna go home
EVER SINCE WE REMODELED THE HOUSE LAST YEAR, YOUR FATHER HASN'T BEEN SO WELL.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
...EXCUSE MY INTRUSION.
Ah, put your umbrella there.


I really shouldn't have come
Well I'm already here so it's not like I can undo it

TETSUO, WOULD YOU LIKE A PEACH?
YOUR AUNT SENT US A BUNCH OF THE—
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP IT!
YOU STOP! DON'T HANG UP MY ART FROM HIGH SCHOOL! HIGH SCHOOL!
BUT IT'S JUST SO LOVELY!
YOUR FATHER PICKED THIS FRAME HIMSELF, YOU KNOW!

WHAT?!
HE SAID THAT THE WALL LOOKED LONELY WITHOUT ANYTHING ON IT. THAT YOUR PAINTING MADE IT LOOK NICER.
PLUS, HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FRAMES, SO HE TOOK IT ALL THE WAY TO AN ART STORE TO HAVE IT DONE.
HE WAS REALLY PICKY WITH THE STORE PEOPLE, TOO! GOING ALL "NO, THIS ONE ISN'T GOOD. NO, NOT THAT ONE EITHER!" AND EVERYTHING.

...IDIOT.

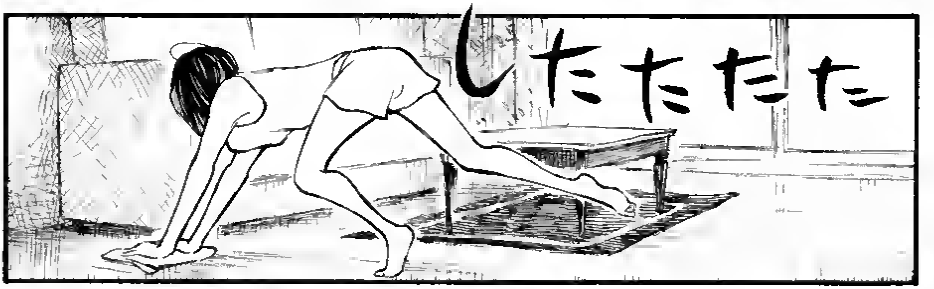
And that was how I was going to live
I only cared about myself.
I neither sought nor cared for the opinions of others.
I rebelled.
I'm a stubborn idiot. Did I just want his acceptance?

I guess I don't have to worry about that anymore, do I?

[CHAPTER 29]

Why do you need an excuse?

バン
バン
バン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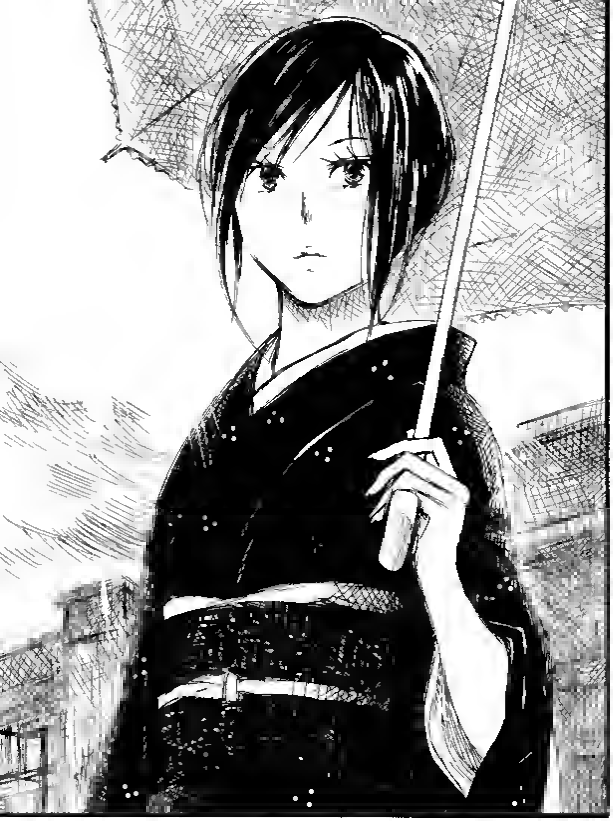
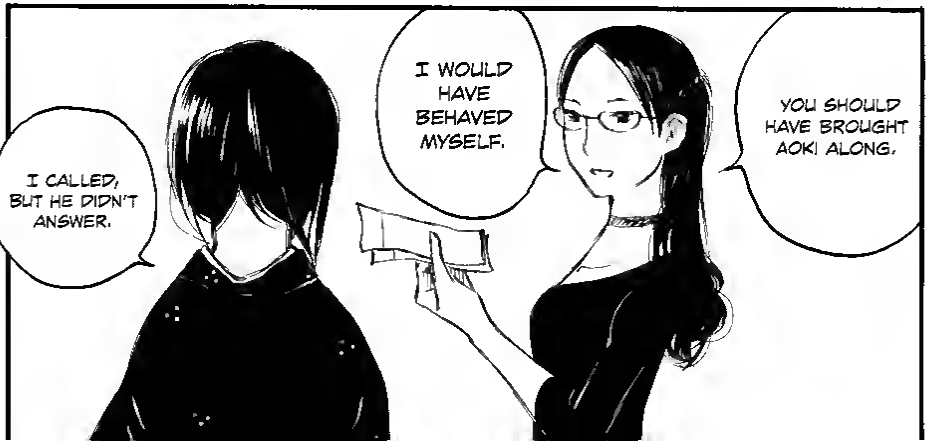
ごしごしごしごし



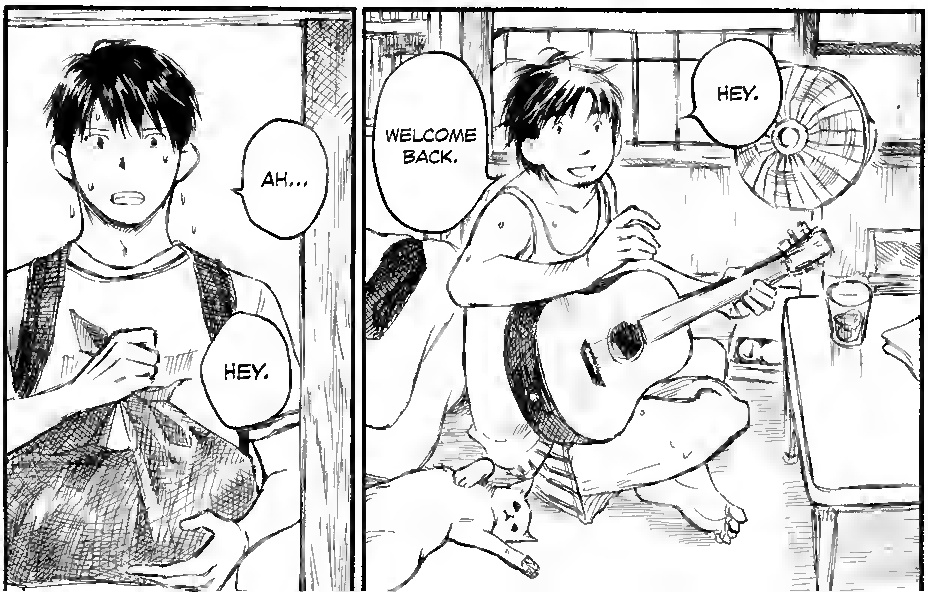
nail salon
rust

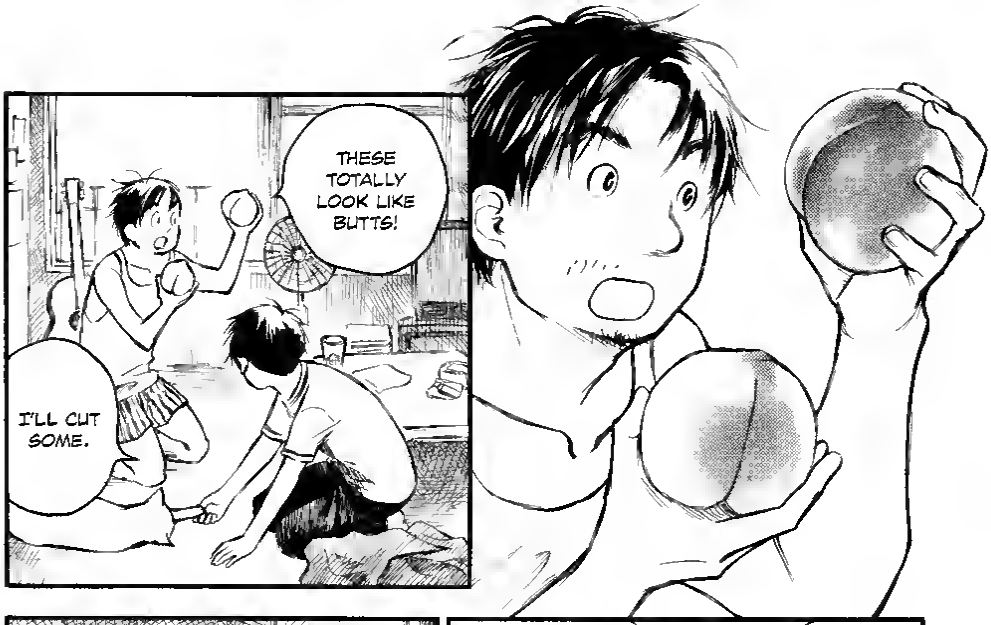

I CALLED, BUT HE DIDN'T ANSWER.
I WOULD HAVE BEHAVED MYSELF.
YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT AOKI ALONG.

I'M SURE HE'S OBSESSING OVER SOME YOUNG GIRL RIGHT NOW.
わくわく
WHAT'S THIS? DO I SMELL *DRAMA*?! WAS IT AN AFFAIR? DID YOU FIGHT? WAS IT A BLOODY STRUGGLE?! DID YOU BREAK UP AFTER?! ARE YOU GOING TO GET REVENGE LIKE IN THOSE SOAP OPERAS?
NOTHING HAPPENED.
TETSUO IS TOO SPINELESS TO ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING.

HEY!!

SEE YOU LATER.
Ciao!
TETSUO'S HERE.


AH...
HEY.
WELCOME BACK.
HEY.


THESE TOTALLY LOOK LIKE BUTTS!
I'LL CUT SOME.

shhaaa
YEAH.

GOOD THING YOUR DAD WAS OK.

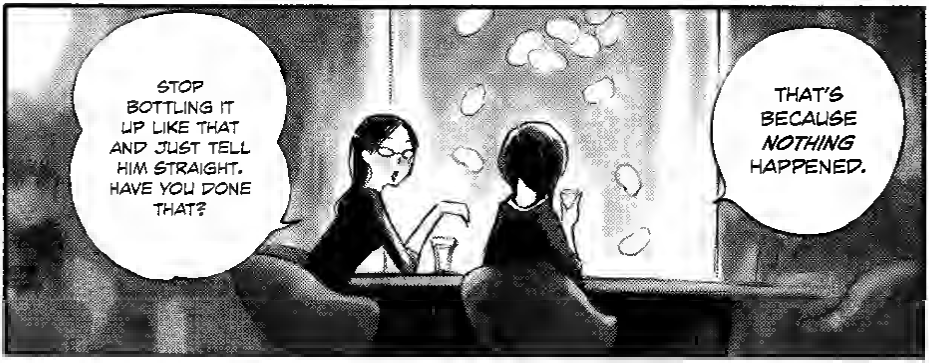
JUST LEAVE ONE FOR HER, THEN.
SHE'LL PROBABLY BE BACK SOON, ANYWAY.

TOO BAD HANA HAD TO GO TO WORK. SHE COULD'VE EATEN SOME YUMMY PEACHES.

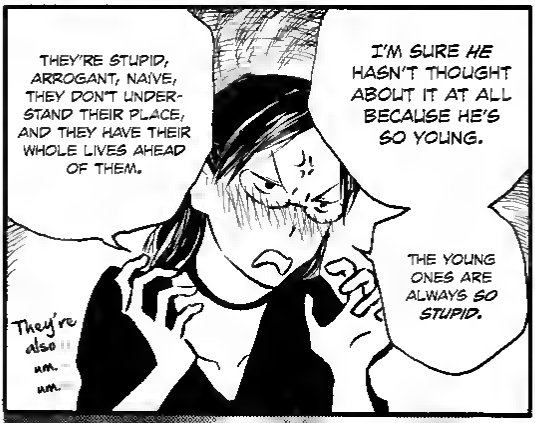
Let's see...
"I heard my dad collapsed so I went home to see him but he actually just tripped..."
but does she even need to know that?
.....
"Let's have some peaches!"
No that's not right either
...
NOT HERE...

Guess I'll try again in the evening
夕凪絵画教室
夕凪絵画教室
BUILDING: YUUNAGI ART SCHOOL
NO, MY AUNT.
DID YOUR PARENTS GROW THESE?
THEY'RE WONDER-FUL.
THEY'RE A BIT TOO EXPENSIVE FOR THAT.
YOU MEAN WHEN USING THEM AS A REFER-ENCE?
Hehe
IT'S NOT EASY TO EXPRESS THEIR TEXTURE.
PEACHES ARE NICE

I'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT THAT SOMETIME.
YOU USED TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER, RIGHT?
SURE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL HELP YOU ANY.
All right, let's go
So he thinks about drawing before he eats too
NOW, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT...


STOP BOTTLING IT UP LIKE THAT AND JUST TELL HIM STRAIGHT. HAVE YOU DONE THAT?
THAT'S BECAUSE *NOTHING* HAPPENED.

LISTEN, IF YOU KEEP PAMPERING HIM LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY, PATTING HIS HEAD AND GIVING HIM TREATS, HE WON'T BECOME A GOOD HUSBAND.


THEY'RE STUPID, ARROGANT, NAIVE, THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR PLACE, AND THEY HAVE THEIR WHOLE LIVES AHEAD OF THEM.
I'M SURE *HE* HASN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT ALL BECAUSE HE'S SO YOUNG.
THE YOUNG ONES ARE ALWAYS *SO STUPID.*
They're also um... um...

YOU'VE AT LEAST GIVEN IT *SOME* THOUGHT, RIGHT?
MARR-IAGE...

DO WE HAVE TO GET MARRIED?

I DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF PROMISE...
CAN'T I JUST
LOVE HIM EVERY DAY,
AND WANT TO SEE HIM,
AND KNOW THAT HE FEELS THE SAME...
EVERY DAY...
AND IF THAT COULD JUST GO ON FOREVER?

IS THAT STRANGE?
IT'S VERY SUR-IDEAL.
IS THAT GOOD?!
WELL, IT'S LIKE SUR-REAL. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
HUH?! WHAT?!
ding dong
I'll try again later
....
VROOM

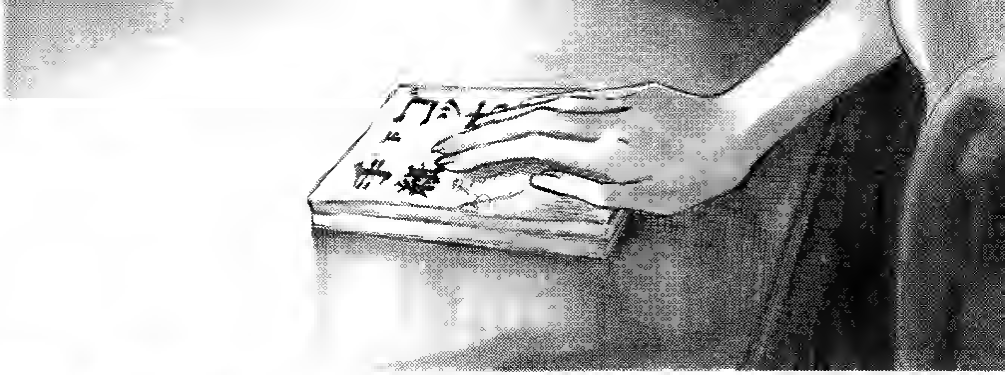
Don worry~ I'll be fine!!
SORRY~ KYUSAKU IS WAITING FOR ME.
Hahaha~
YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD STAY OVER.
THAN ME.
THAT'S NO FAIR YOU GETTING MORE DRUNK
I COULDN'T TELL HATOKO...

plsh
shk

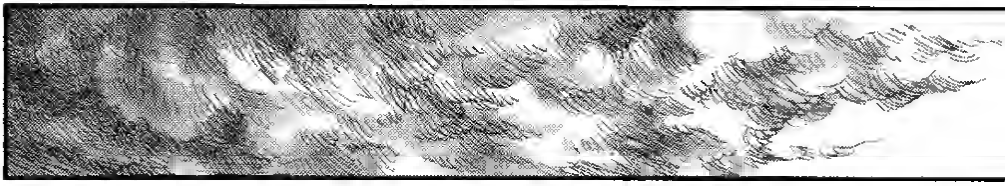
むしゃ
むしゃ
WHY ARE YOU MAKING ME EAT...
ずる、
SUCH A DELICIOUS PEACH ALL BY MYSELF...
はむ
はむ
むぐ
むぐ
ずるる

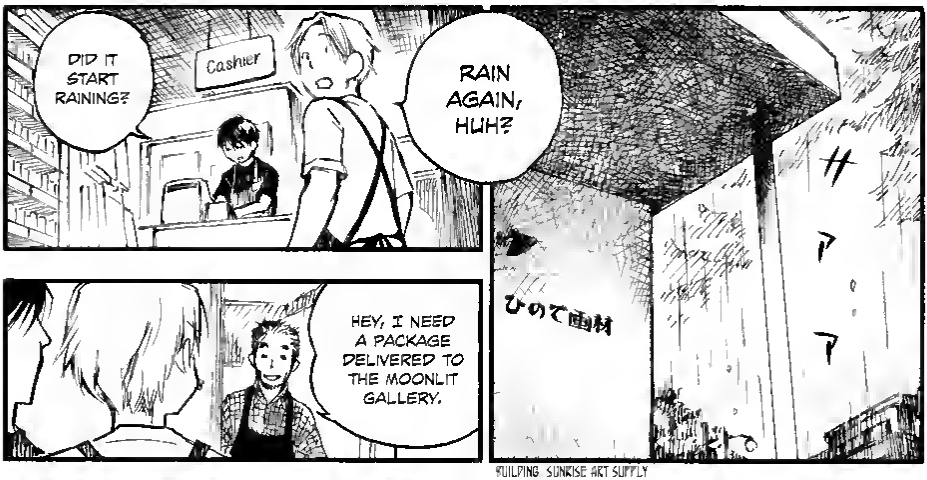
Hah...
I wonder if he likes bringing fruit whenever he's feeling anxious...
I can't tell anybody
I can't tell Hatoko about it
The "Hanami" in Tetsuo's sketchbook...
No, the only one feeling anxious
is me...

I feel like
it's Tetsuo's
precious
secret
something
I shouldn't
carelessly
talk about

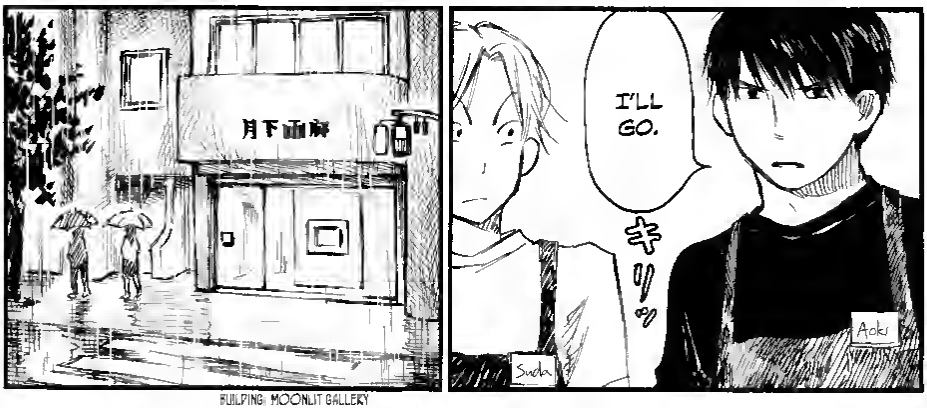


BOOK: THE LETTERS OF VINCENT VAN GOGH





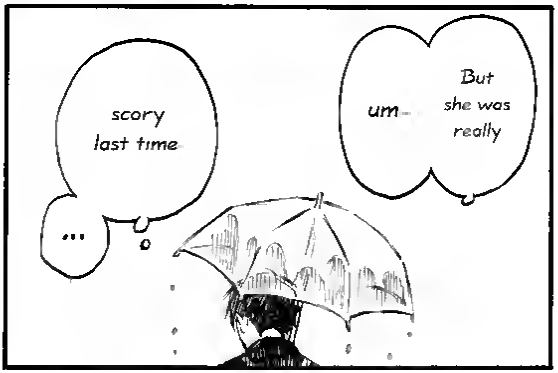
BUILDING: SUNRISE ART SUPPLY



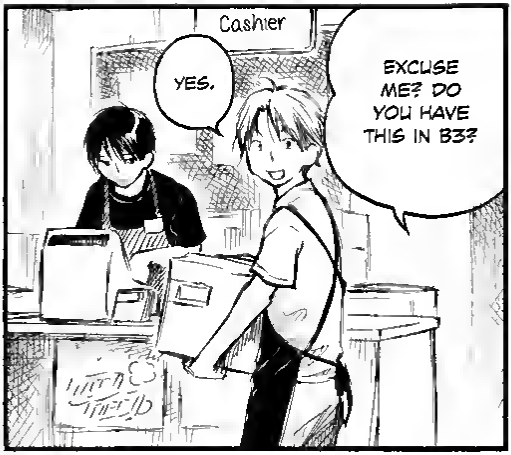
BUILDING: MOONLIT GALLERY

THANKS AS ALWAYS.
She's... not in
Damn it I lost my excuse to see her
Am I disappointed?

No I'm just relieved that I got it over with without having to see her aren't I?



What will happen to us then?
What if I stop seeing her?


Cashier
YES.
EXCUSE ME? DO YOU HAVE THIS IN B3?

SO YOU WENT TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE?
THEY WERE REALLY GOOD.
THANKS FOR THE PEACHES!
IT'D BE CHEAPER THERE.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE THIS AT THE SCHOOL STORE?
YES.
3MM KENT PAPER, RIGHT?
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN MORI TOLD ME THAT
THE PRICE IS THE SAME 'CAUSE I GET A STUDENT DISCOUNT.
JUST KIDDING!
Aha!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR A WHILE.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

THIS? HOW MANY?
YEP! ONE, PLEASE!
THANK YOU!
WHO KNOWS. I RARELY WORK DURING THIS TIME.
I COME HERE EVERY NOW AND THEN. MAYBE WE'VE WALKED PAST EACH OTHER WITHOUT REALIZING IT...
....
ALSO...
I'M QUITTING SOON.
ひので画材

BUILDING: SUNRISE ART SUPPLY

LIBRARY

ding

dong

Still-Life Painting 101
I CHANGED THE WATER BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING LATELY...
?
SORRY, THE PEACHES ARE ALL SOLD OUT.
AH, THANKS.

THEY'VE GOTTEN REALLY SAD-LOOKING, HUH?
YEAH.
IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT TAKING CARE OF THEM.
OH, WHAT BOOKS ARE YOU READING?
The Basics of Design
入門シリーズ
Still-Life Painting 101
SHOULDN'T HE BE WITH THE 4TH YEARS?
Y'KNOW, FOR GRAD PROJECTS
WHERE'S PROF. IIJIMA?
NO, IT'S
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED TO SEE YOU STARTING OVER FROM THE BASICS
OOH...
Still-Life Painting 101
....
A SEC.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT. JUST WAIT
IT DOESN'T MATTER!!

IT'S... NOT FOR ME.
I WANT TO LEARN HOW TO ACTUALLY PUT INTO WORDS THE THINGS I ALWAYS DO BY FEELING...
I'M SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BECOMING A TEACHER.
SO I WANTED TO TALK TO PROFESSOR IIJIMA ABOUT GETTING A JOB IN THE FIELD.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!

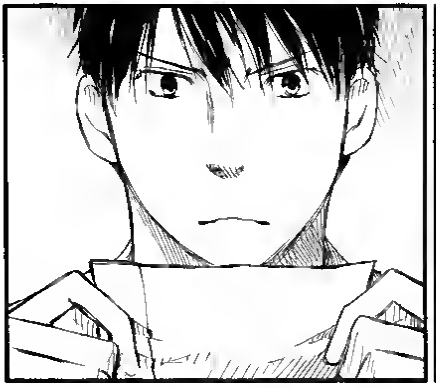
[CHAPTER 30]

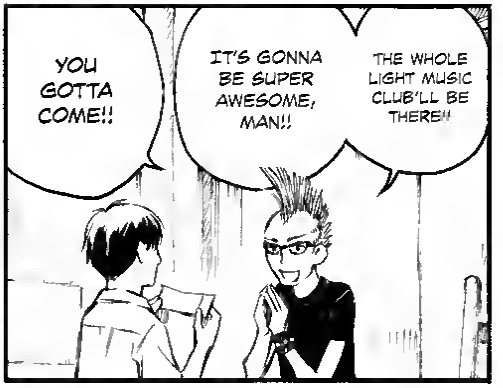
An Honest Fool

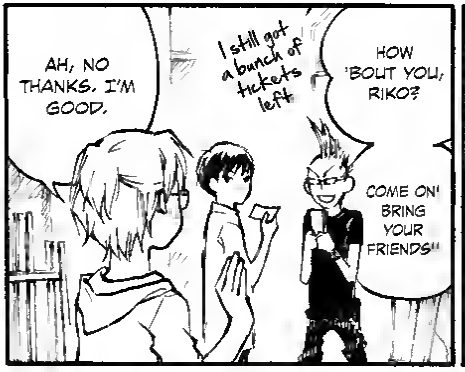
YOU GOT SOME ON YOUR FACE.

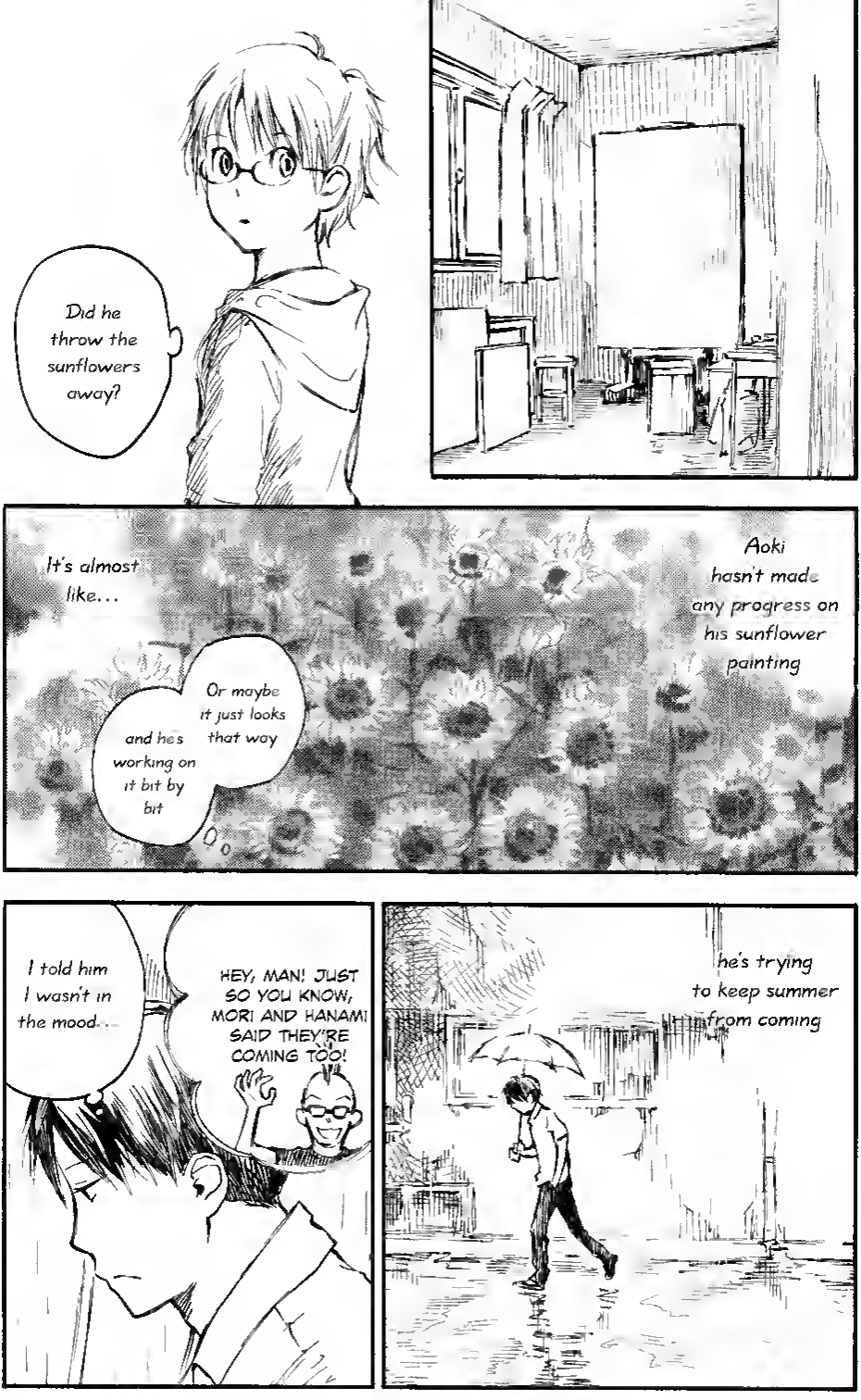
定食丼

SIGN: HIYOSHIGAOKA UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS





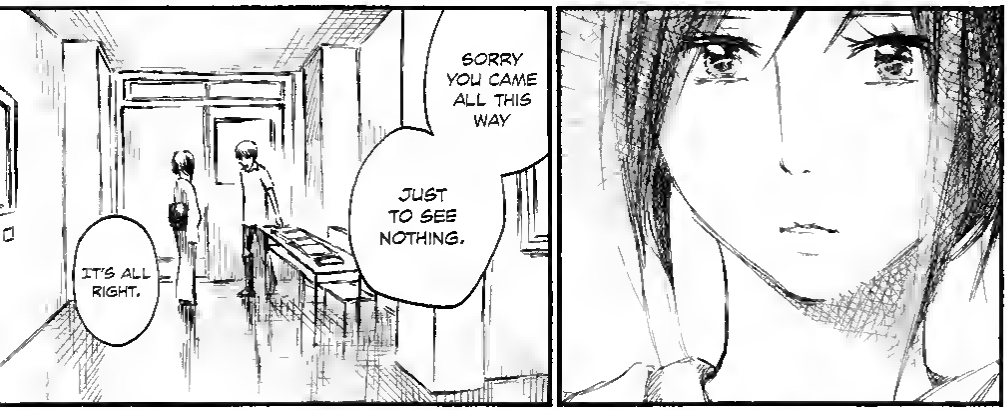



Did he throw the sunflowers away?
Aoki hasn't made any progress on his sunflower painting
It's almost like...
Or maybe it just looks that way
and he's working on it bit by bit
I told him I wasn't in the mood...
HEY, MAN! JUST SO YOU KNOW, MORI AND HANAMI SAID THEY'RE COMING TOO!
he's trying to keep summer from coming

What do you mean "again"?
...
AH... FILLING IN FOR MORI AGAIN, EH?
HUH? OH, HEY AOKI, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HELPING OUT.
Exhibition of Notable Works by Our Alumni
Second Hall
OK, YOU'RE OFF.
WHEN IS THIS OVER?
something to do
Well... I guess it's good to have
FIVE.
.....
NO, WHEN IS YOUR SHIFT OVER?

YOU CAME...

I HAVEN'T FINISHED IT YET.
AH...
I THOUGHT I'D GET TO SEE YOUR SUNFLOWER PAINTING, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS MISTAKEN.


IT'S ALL RIGHT.
JUST TO SEE NOTHING.
SORRY YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY

I'LL WALK YOU TO THE FRONT.
I'M FINE FROM HERE.

I... WAS INVITED TO A CONCERT.
DO YOU WANT TO COME OVER TONIGHT?
OK.
ALL OF THEM.
I'LL EAT THE PEACHES WITHOUT YOU.
THAT'S FINE.
I SEE.
SORRY.
I MISSED YOU.
BUT I'M GLAD.

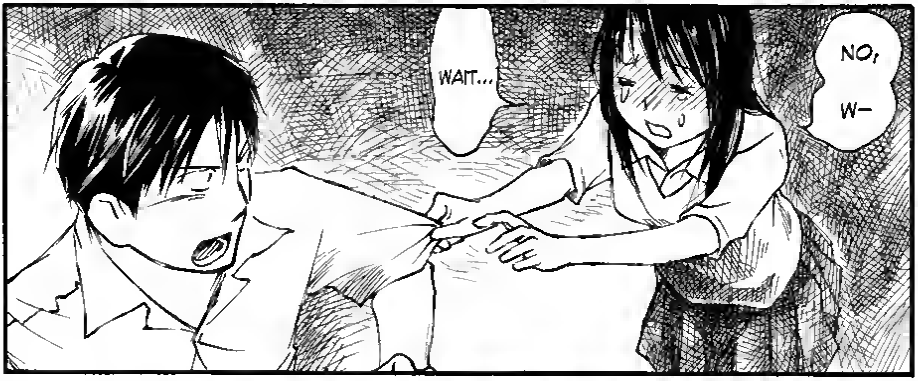
I...
MISSED YOU, TOO.

IT WAS NICE SEEING YOU.
And it was like my fear had only been a distant dream
Hey, Mr Aoki!
I got this warm feeling like I was wrapped up in something very soft.
When I saw her face
LIVE

clap
clap
clap
clap
HIYOSHI
Oh well
Doesn't
matter
Are those
two even
here?

WHAT'S WRONG?
AH...
TETSU-
M-
MORI, HE, .
TELL ME.
U-UM...
sob

WHERE IS HE?!


WAIT...
NO, W–

HE WENT OUT TO LUNCH WITH HIS EX...

WHAT HAPPENED?
HE...

LIKE I SAID, THEY HAD LUNCH! NOTHING ELSE!!
WHAT ELSE WOULD THERE BE?! YOU BETTER NOT BE THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING WEIRD!!
I'M NOT!!
YOU JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN EATING, DIDN'T YOU?!
I HAVEN'T SAID ANY-THING!
S-Sorry...
JUST THAT?!
WELL, GOOD THING IT WAS JUST THAT.
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING HE'D DO AT LEAST...
OKAY, NOT JUST WITH YOUR EX, BUT IN GENERAL!! WHO WOULD GO OUT TO EAT WITH ANOTHER GIRL... ALONE?!
So what would you call that dinner we had the other day...?
...
I MEAN, IF YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND, YOU WOULDN'T JUST GO OUT WITH YOUR EX, RIGHT?!
...
I've never been in that kind of situation

BUT
UM...
HE DOESN'T MEAN ANY-THING BY IT..
BUT
IF IT WERE ME, I'D NEVER MAKE YOU FEEL THIS WAY.
I WISH YOU WERE MY BOYFRIEND.

THEN FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.

smak

SORRY.
REALLY EMBAR-RASSED...
I'M SORRY. I'M JUST...

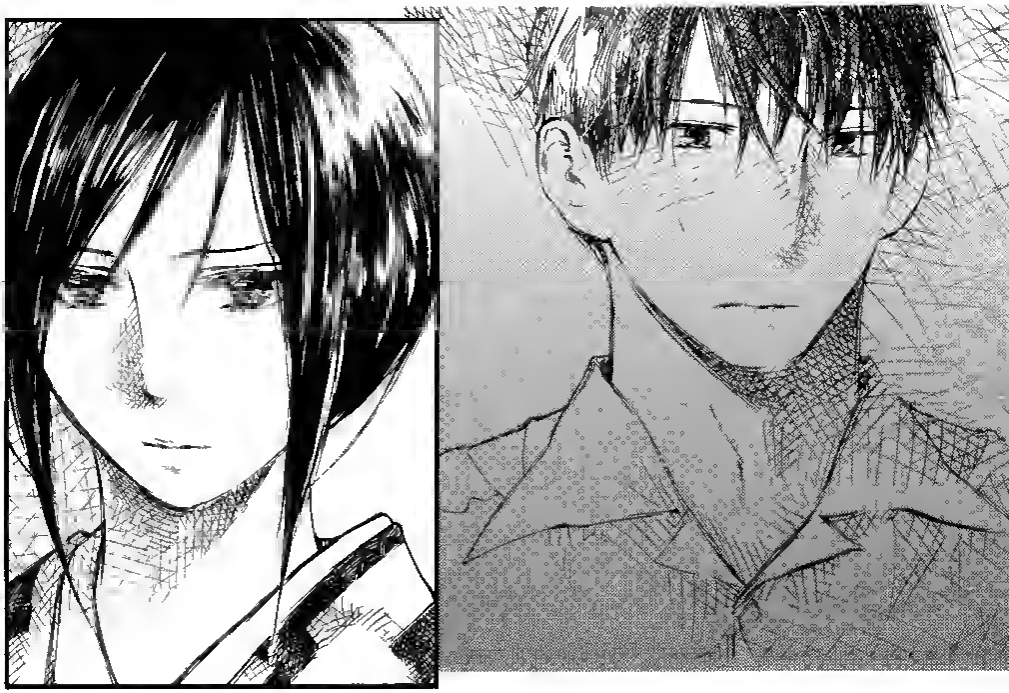
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
I'M GRATEFUL, BUT...
...
ARE YOU MAD?
GEEZ!
I CAN'T LAUGH IF YOU SAY IT SO SERIOUSLY.
WELL, YOU LIKE MORI A LOT.
?!
AND I SAID ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT HIM...
..LET'S GO.
THE NEXT BAND IS STARTING.
WH~
WHY WOULD I BE?

OK.
What the hell...
am I saying?

[CHAPTER 31]

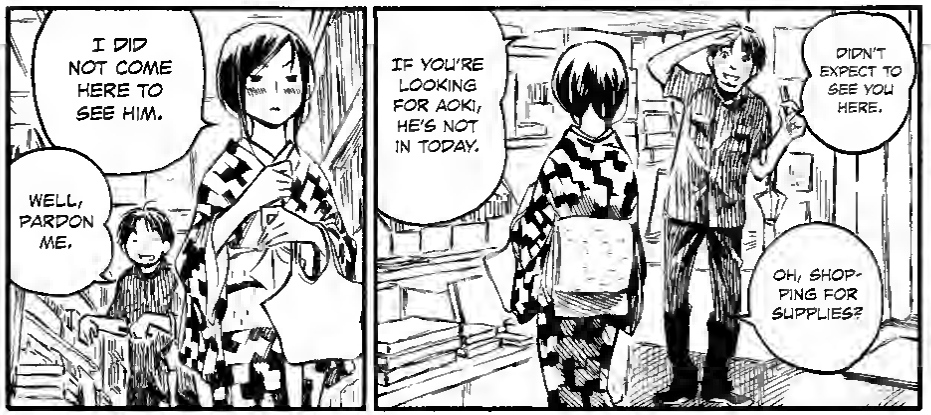
Akira's Wish

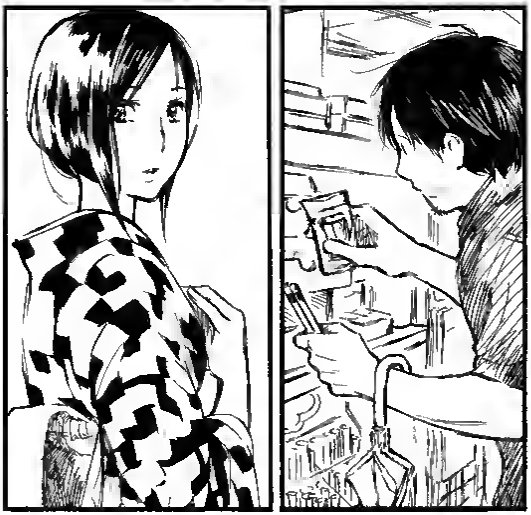
I can tell what he's feeling when we touch
Tetsuo is honest



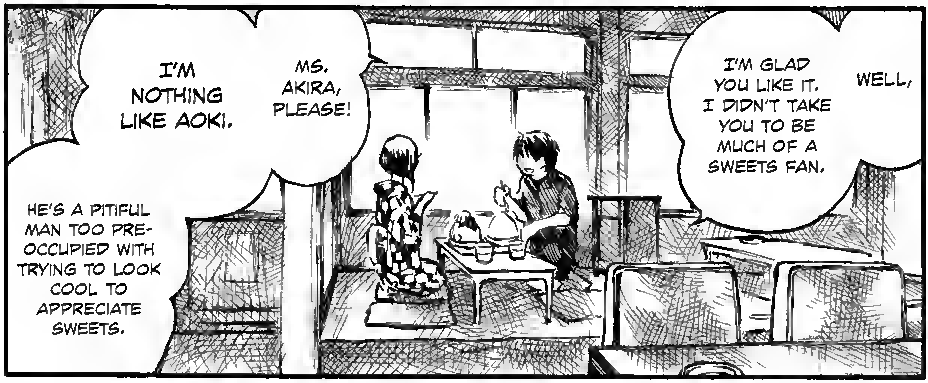
what was that drawing?
But then..

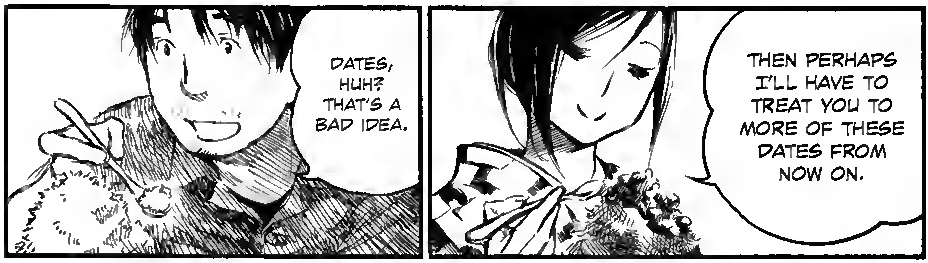
*SUNRISE ART SUPPLY

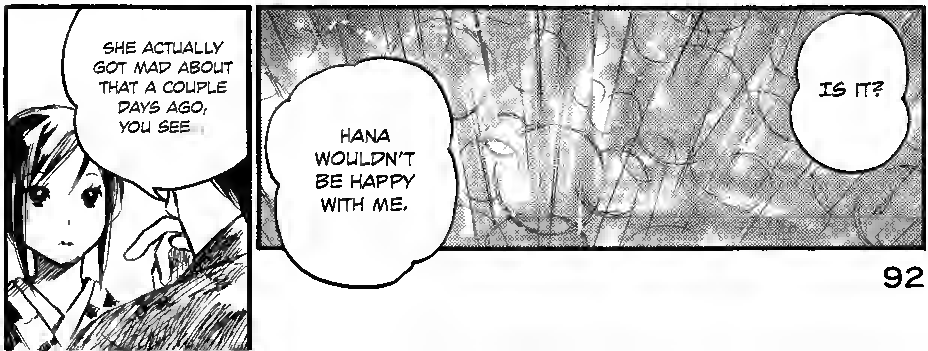

I DID NOT COME HERE TO SEE HIM.
WELL, PARDON ME,
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AOKI, HE'S NOT IN TODAY.
DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE.
OH, SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES?



YUM!!
THE ULTIMATE TREAT ON A HUMID DAY!!
LIKE THE SWEET TASTE OF FIRST LOVE, IT MELTS SOFTLY INTO YOUR MOUTH!!
Mmm


I'M NOTHING LIKE AOKI.
MS. AKIRA, PLEASE!
HE'S A PITIFUL MAN TOO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH TRYING TO LOOK COOL TO APPRECIATE SWEETS.
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT. I DIDN'T TAKE YOU TO BE MUCH OF A SWEETS FAN.
WELL,

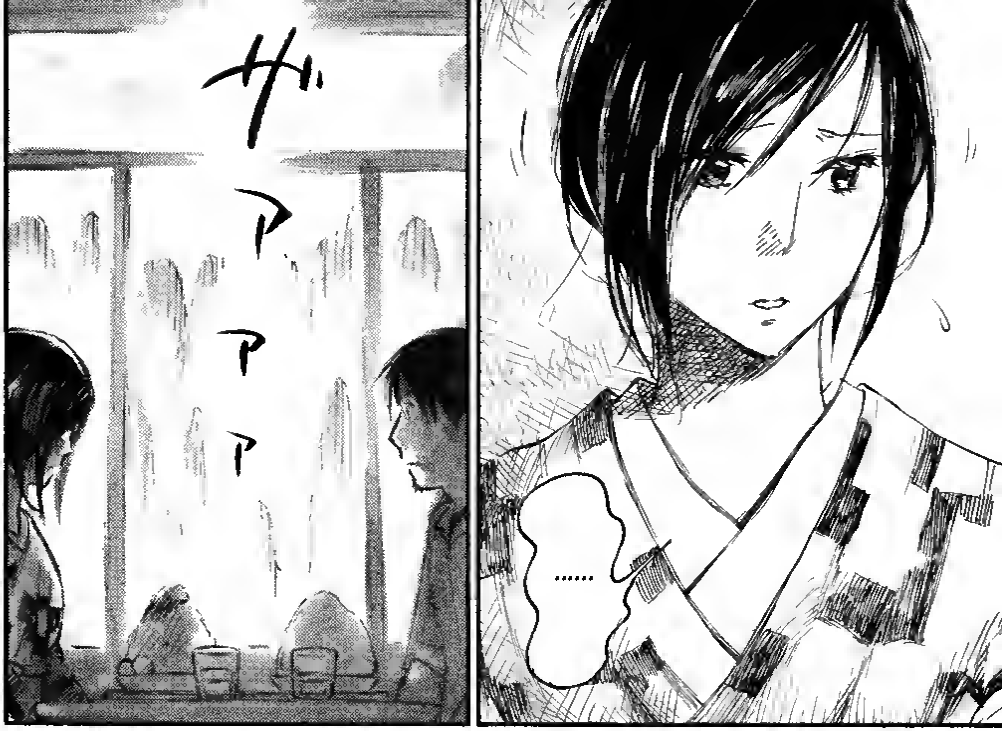

DATES, HUH? THAT'S A BAD IDEA.
THEN PERHAPS I'LL HAVE TO TREAT YOU TO MORE OF THESE DATES FROM NOW ON.

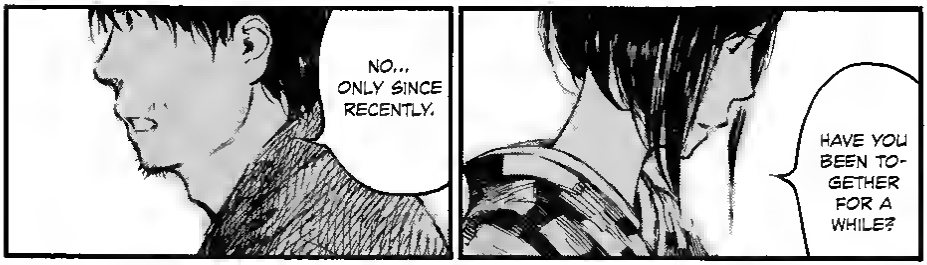

SHE ACTUALLY GOT MAD ABOUT THAT A COUPLE DAYS AGO, YOU SEE
HANA WOULDN'T BE HAPPY WITH ME.
IS IT?

OH, RIGHT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE PICTURE I TOLD YOU ABOUT?
SORRY, I DON'T THINK I EVER TOLD YOU.
AH, MY GIRL-FRIEND.
HANA'S MY GIRL-FRIEND'S NAME.
I'M CURIOUS. PLEASE SHOW IT TO ME.
WELL...
WHY?
...ER, BUT MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BRING THIS UP.
WELL, YOU KNOW...
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING?
HUH...?

WHOA!
IT'S RAINING LIKE CRAZY AGAIN.
I HOPE AOKI DOESN'T GET CAUGHT IN THE FLOOD. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO PAINT AT THE RIVERBED TODAY...

...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
OH, SO I DID TELL YOU HER NAME.
I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBER.
...
HANAMI.
HUH?
WHY?


ガアアア
.....

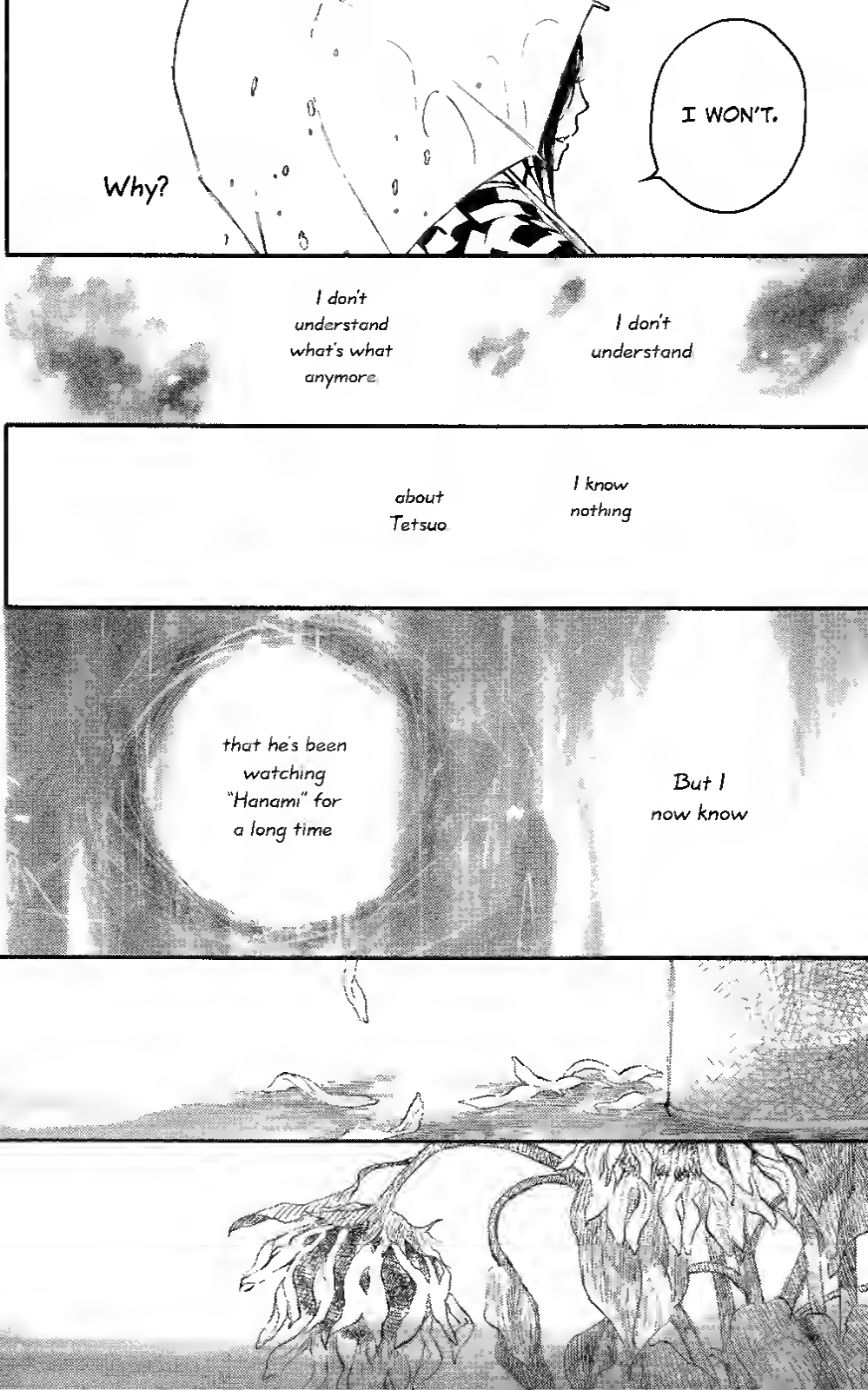

NO... ONLY SINCE RECENTLY.
HAVE YOU BEEN TOGETHER FOR A WHILE?

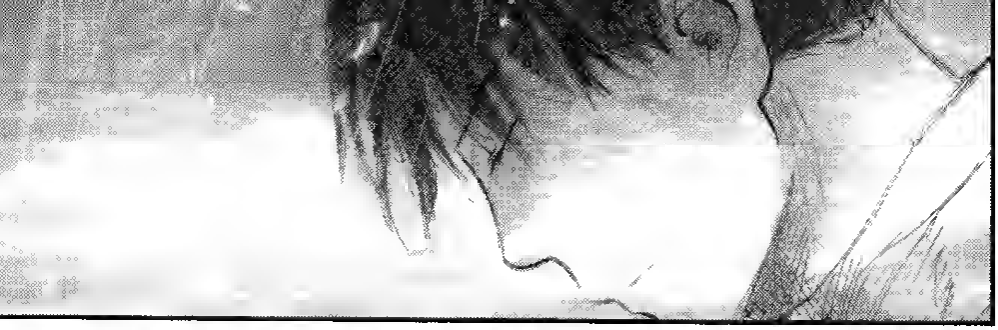
BETTER KEEP EATING
OR IT'LL MELT.
I SEE. THANK YOU.
...RIGHT.

SUN-FLOWERS SUIT HER WELL.
AOKI TOOK THIS PHOTO, ACTUALLY.
Why?
DID I SAY S-
AWFUL RAIN, ISN'T IT?
EVERYTHING OKAY, MS. AKIRA?
plip
plop
plip
plop

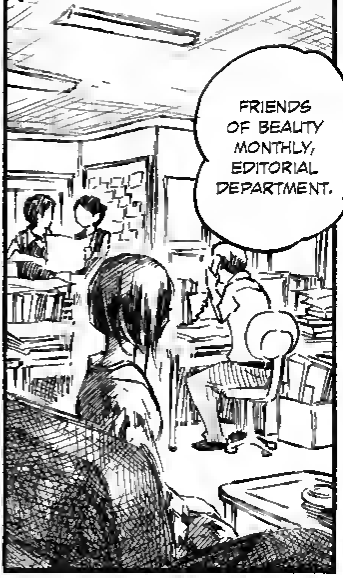
I HAD SOME TIME BEFORE MY MEETING. . SO THIS WAS PERFECT.
THANKS FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY.
WASN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
HIS DAD BEING OKAY AND ALL.
GOOD THING FOR AOKI, HUH?
SO AOKI WENT BACK HOME TO SEE HIM.
JUST FOR A DAY, THOUGH...
HIS... DAD WAS HOSPITAL-IZED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHY APOLO-GIZE?
...I'M SORRY.
I'M SURE.
HE PROB-ABLY JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY.
THAT...
I'LL SAY THE SAME TO AOKI.
HE SHOULDN'T MAKE YOU CRY.
IT WAS NICE SEE-ING YOU.
DON'T MAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND CRY, OKAY?

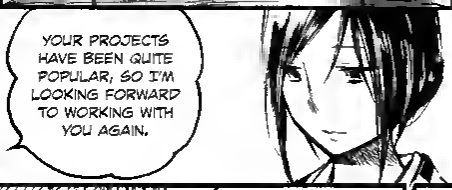

Why?
I WON'T.
I don't understand what's what anymore
I don't understand
I know nothing about Tetsuo
But I now know that he's been watching "Hanami" for a long time

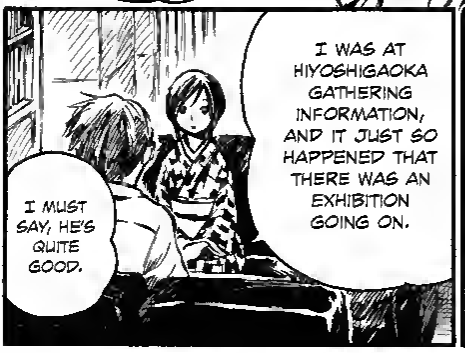


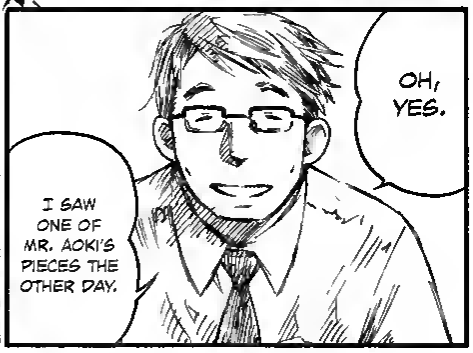
Do I want Hanami for myself?


FRIENDS OF BEAUTY MONTHLY, EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

ALRIGHT.
OKAY. WE'LL TRY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR NEXT TIME...


YOUR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN QUITE POPULAR, SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN.


I WAS AT HIYOSHIGAOKA GATHERING INFORMATION, AND IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT THERE WAS AN EXHIBITION GOING ON.
I MUST SAY, HE'S QUITE GOOD.

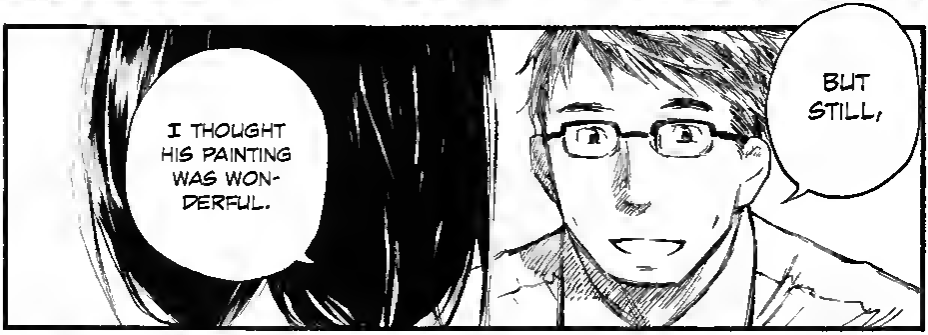

OH, YES.
I SAW ONE OF MR. AOKI'S PIECES THE OTHER DAY.

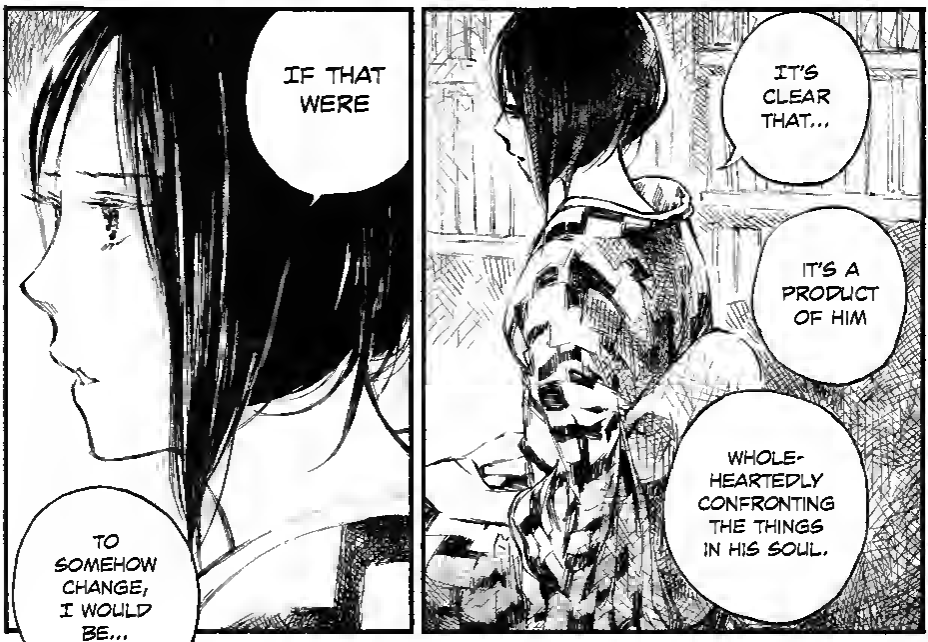
IF I MAY,

DO YOU THINK HE'S THE REAL THING?
THE REAL THING, HUH...

HE MANAGES TO CREATE A PANG OF LONELINESS, LIKE A SHARP THORN, WITHIN AN ATMOSPHERE BRIMMING WITH TRANQUILITY.
I CAN SEE WHY HIS WORK CAPTIVATED YOU, MS. AIZAWA.

IT'S NOT RARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE CONTROLLED BY LONELINESS AND OTHER NEGATIVE EMOTIONS.
IF IT'S ONLY A PHASE, HE MAY LOSE THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS THOSE FEELINGS AS HE DOES NOW.


BUT STILL,
I THOUGHT HIS PAINTING WAS WONDERFUL.


IT'S CLEAR THAT...
IT'S A PRODUCT OF HIM
WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONFRONTING THE THINGS IN HIS SOUL.
IF THAT WERE
TO SOMEHOW CHANGE, I WOULD BE...

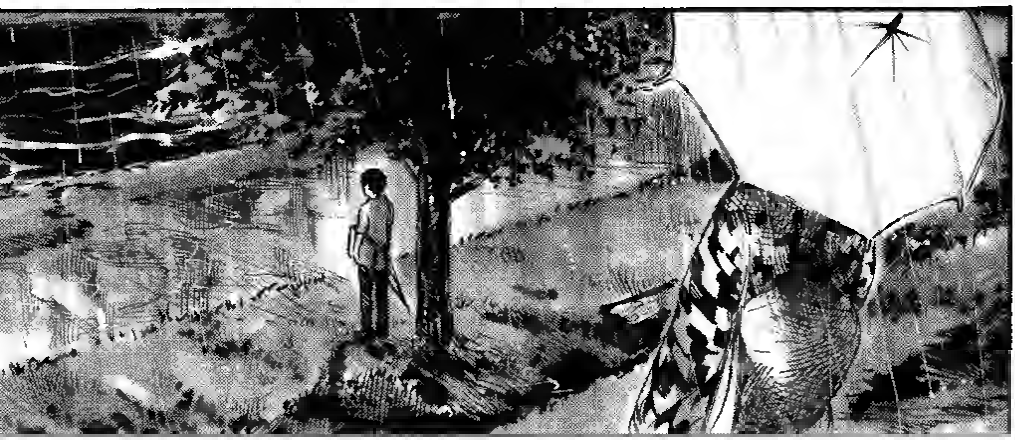
I don't even
want to think
about that drawing.
Hanami
YES.
I THINK SO TOO.
The traces of his many attempts remain each line drawn over and over
A rough uneven sketch still waiting to be finished

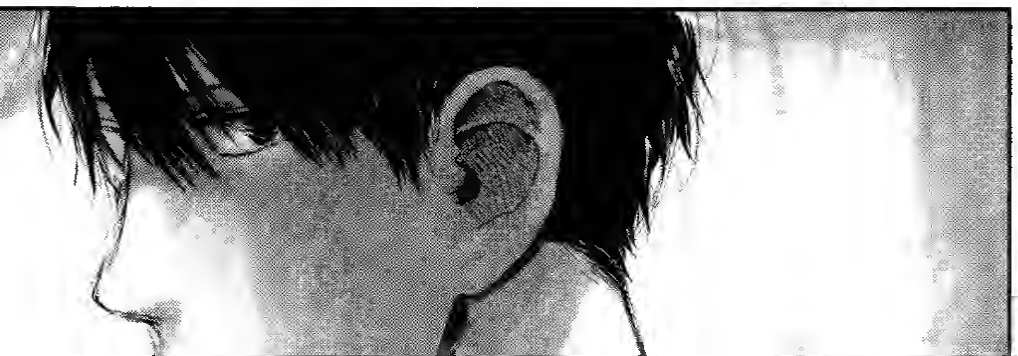
I THOUGHT IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

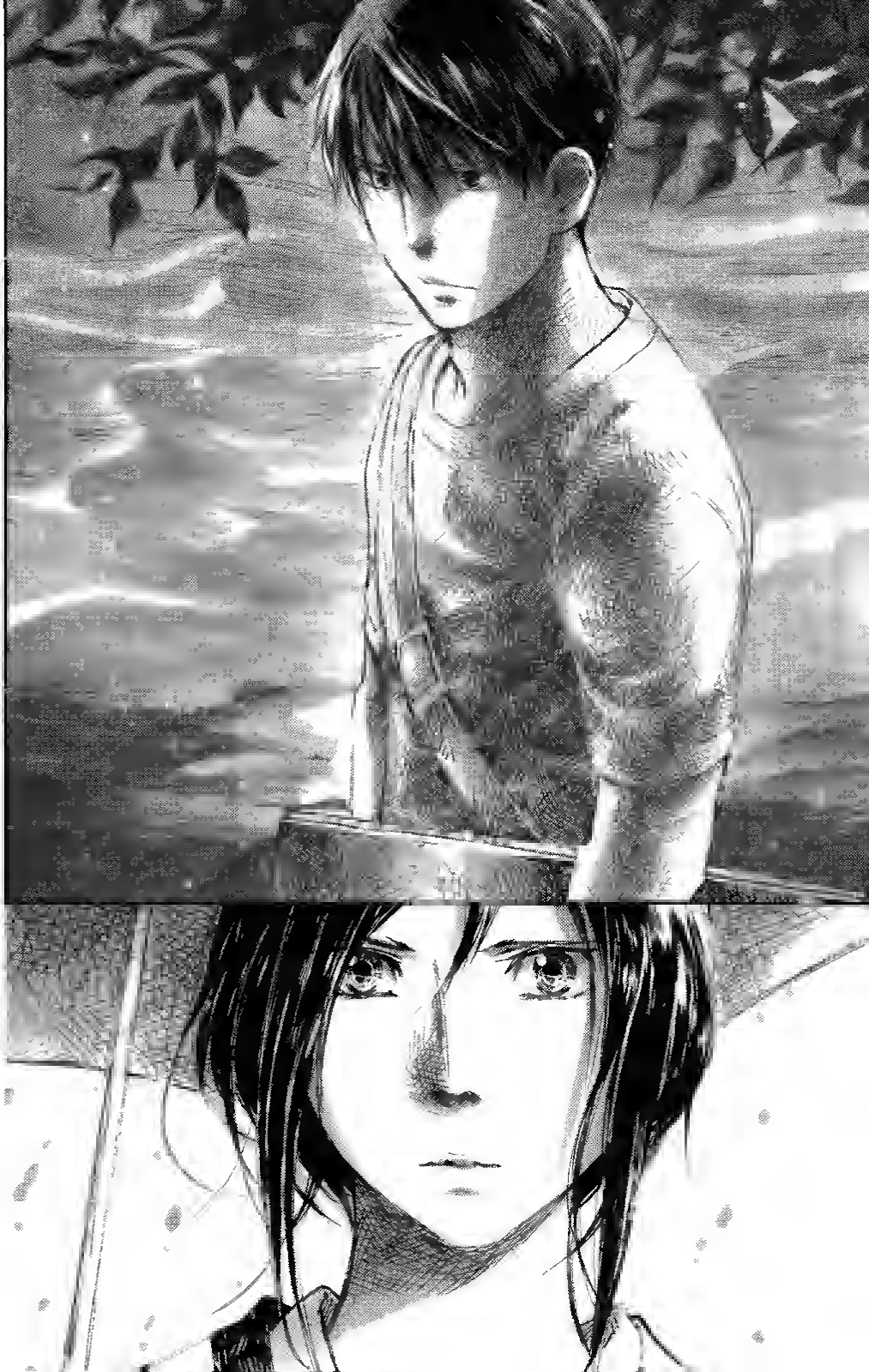
Hey.
Tetsuo
All I
can do
is watch
and hope
I just
want to
watch.
No matter
what you
choose to do,

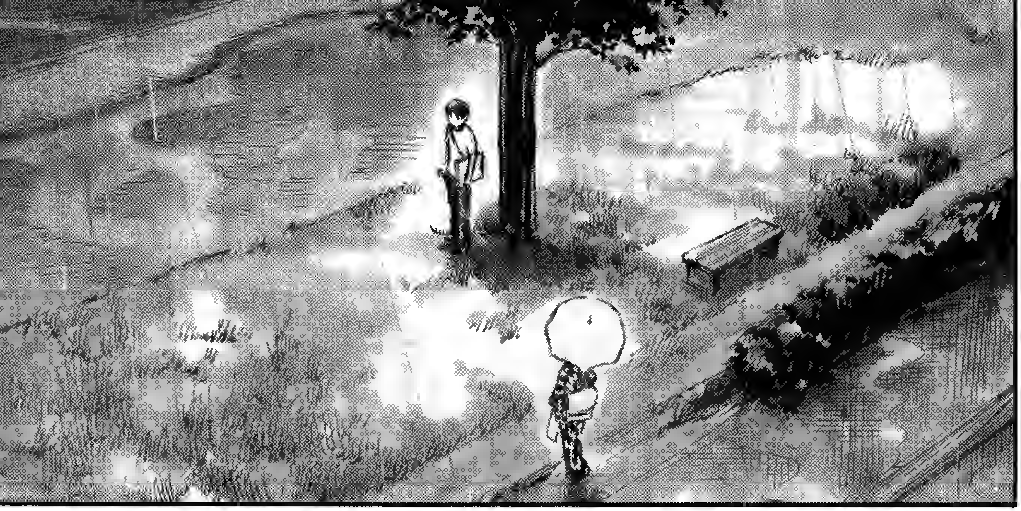
Wanting...
rejecting...
Like an abandoned dog...

Tetsuo.
Like a little beast.









夏の前日

I HEARD YOU WERE
PAINTING HERE.

AS IF I COULD PAINT
IN THIS RAIN.
YOU LIKE TO WATCH ME PAINT, DON'T YOU?
YES.
SO YOU'D HATE IT
IF I STOP-PED.
I WOULDN'T.
I WANT YOU TO PAINT
BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE FREE.

WHEN OUR SOULS SHINE,
WE ARE FREE.
YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL.
HOW YOU LISTENED TO THE WHISPERING OF YOUR SOUL.
HOW YOU SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND, DESPITE THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN, PRESSED ON.
I FELT RAW JOY.
YOU WERE SHINING.
I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...
TO BE FREE, TETSUO.
I WANT YOU...

...I JUST
DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO...

I RAN HERE.

ARE YOU DRE-NCHED?

...WHY

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?

[CHAPTER 32] Hold Me And Never Let Go

AH
...
HAH

FUU
MM

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAH!
MM
NGH!!
ぎっし
NGH
NGH
ぎっし
NGH
NNGH

MM
AH!
NRGH
NNGH
AH!
MM
ぎし
ぎし
ぎし
ぎし
AH
NGH
MM!
AH
AH!

So
Hot
Akira
Akira
very
Warm
Painful
Akira
Good
Soft
Akiro
good
So
good

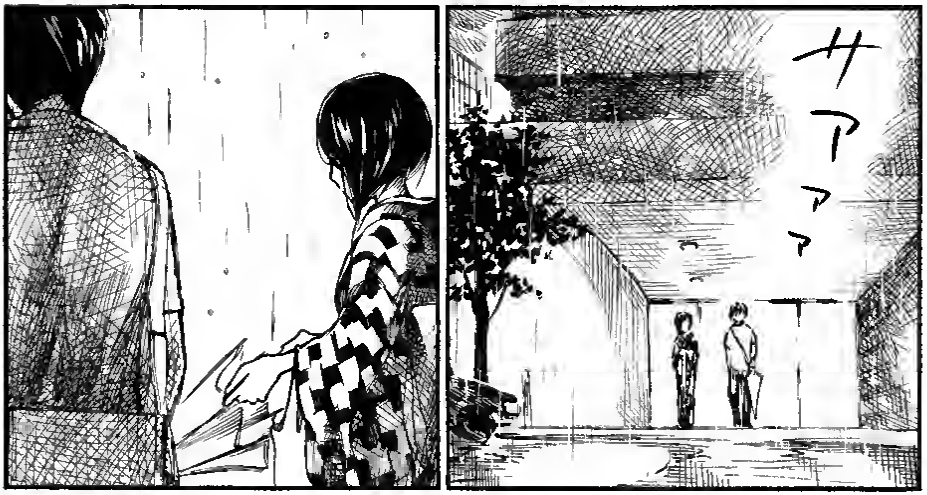
Fill me up entirely with Akira.
AH ...

AH
AH
AH
AH...
...
HAH
...
...
ST-
ズルッ

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

ア
ア
ア
ア
AH...
OK.
I NEED TO GO BACK TO THE OFFICE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
TE-TSUO.

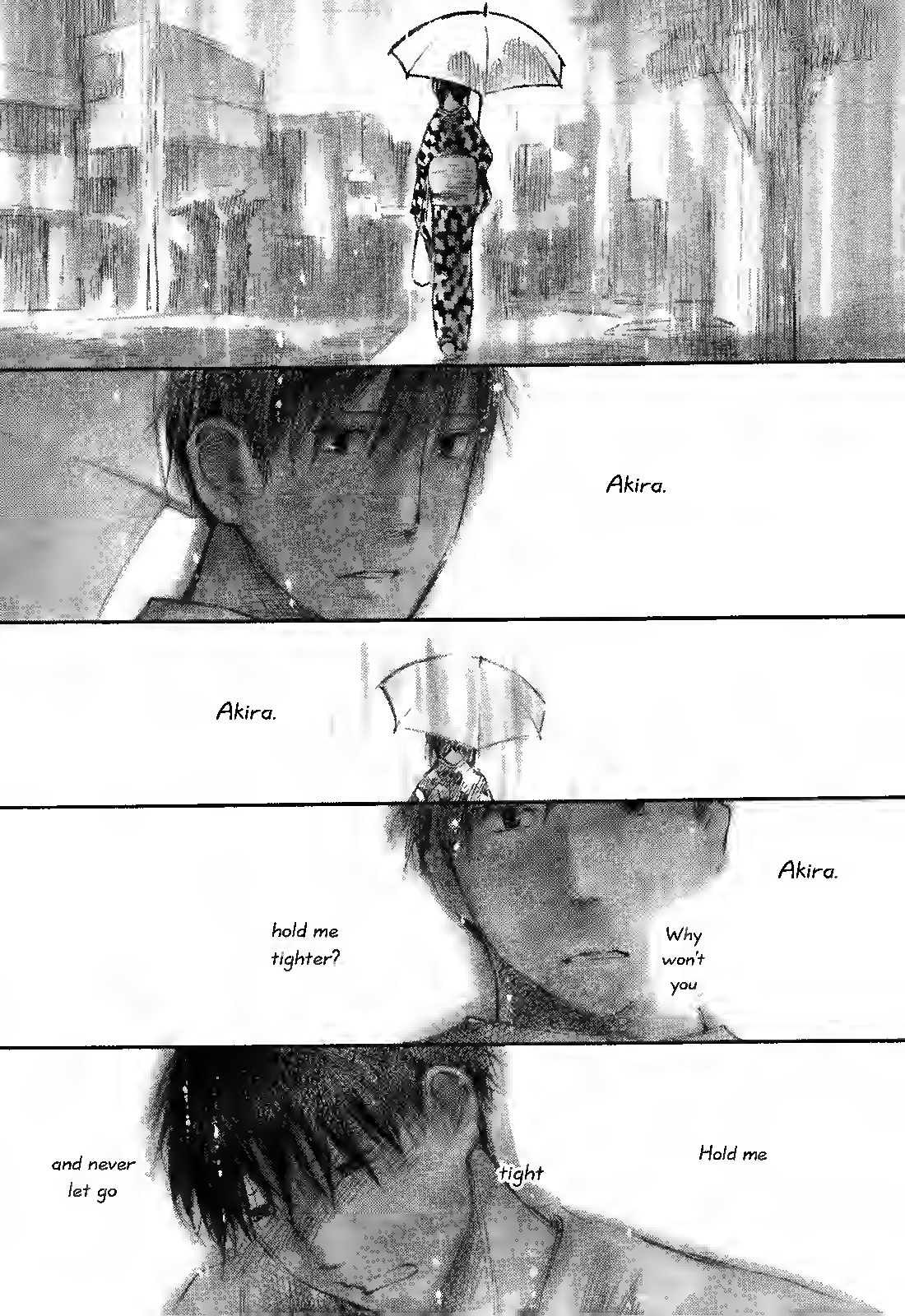
ポー
ン
ゴウン
ゴウン


サアアア

HEY,
UM... SORRY.
FOR MAKING YOU SKIP WORK.
IT'S OK ONCE IN A WHILE.
AKIRA.
DO YOU LOVE ME?

I DO.
I LOVE YOU.
CAN'T YOU TELL?
WHAT WE JUST DID CONFIRMS THAT, DOESN'T IT?
RIGHT.

...OKAY, BYE.
NO.
WILL YOU BE BACK THIS EVENING?
I SEE.
ALL RIGHT.
SEE YOU LATER.


Akira.
Akira.
Akira.
Why won't you hold me tighter?
Hold me tight and never let go

If not, I'll...

See you later.

夏の前日

Akira always says that

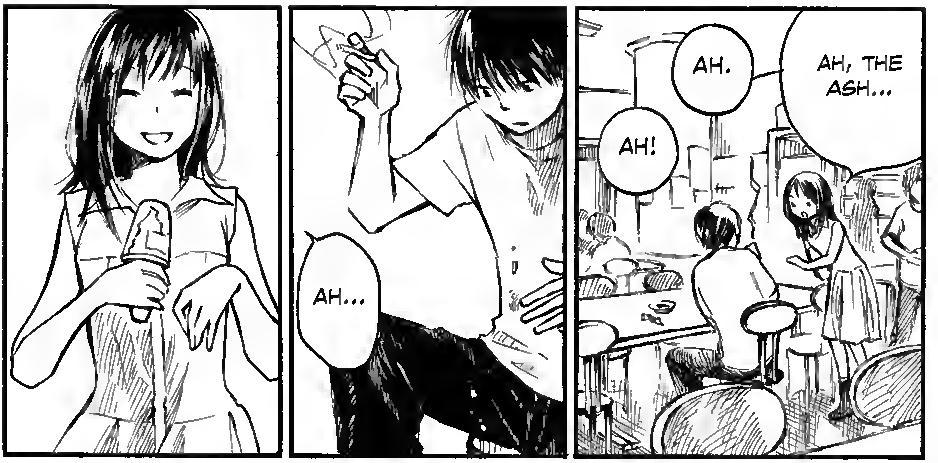
Because she lets
me have sex with
her so easily

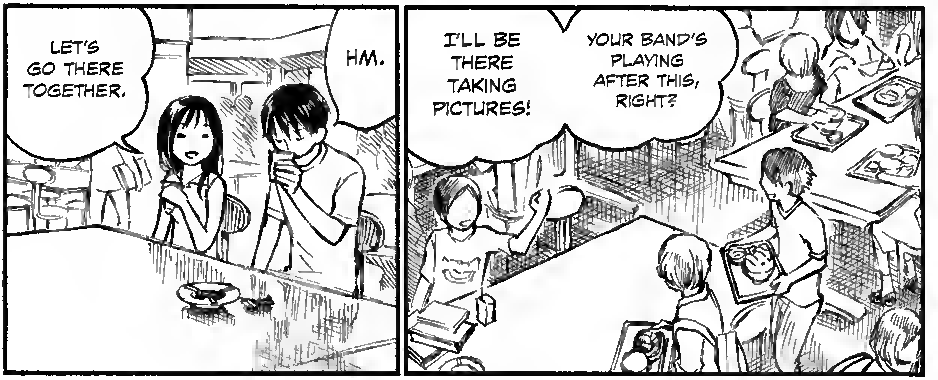
[CHAPTER 33]

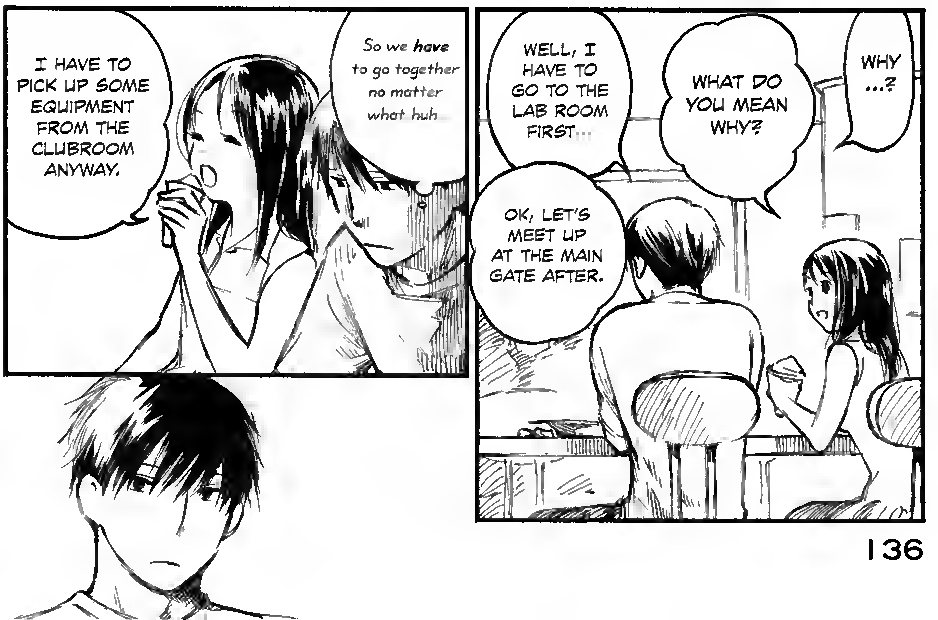
Cry Of The Cicadas

OH.
IS IT?
HEY.
HM?
IS THE RAINY SEASON OVER?
GUESS I IMAGINED IT...
RIKO:
, ,THIS MORNING,
I THOUGHT I HEARD THE SOUND OF CICADAS.
He's not going to paint
Oh?

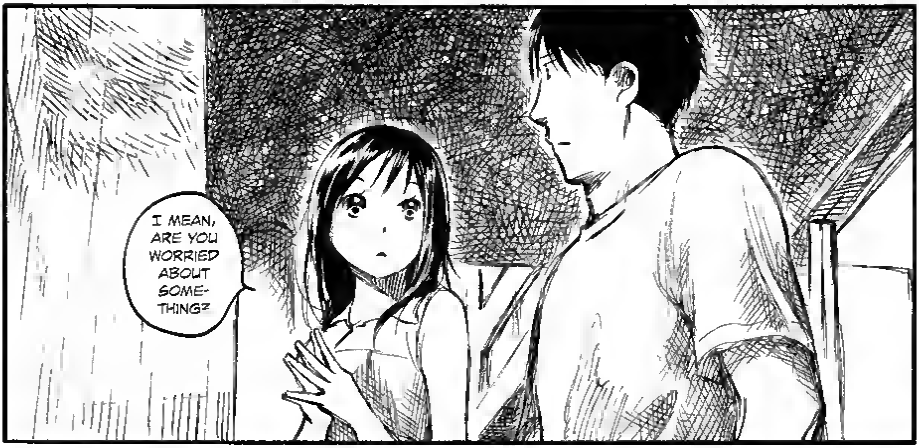
I have absolutely no idea anymore
Be angry?
Cry?
Smile?
Do I want to paint?
YOU ALONE?


AH...
AH!
AH.
AH, THE ASH...


LET'S GO THERE TOGETHER.
HM.
I'LL BE THERE TAKING PICTURES!
YOUR BAND'S PLAYING AFTER THIS, RIGHT?


I HAVE TO PICK UP SOME EQUIPMENT FROM THE CLUBROOM ANYWAY.
So we **have** to go together no matter what huh...
WELL, I HAVE TO GO TO THE LAB ROOM FIRST...
OK, LET'S MEET UP AT THE MAIN GATE AFTER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY?
WHY ...?

AW... COME ON...
ザーアアア
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE CLUBROOM FIRST, THEN.
I'LL CARRY YOUR STUFF IF YOU WANT.
YAY!
...
OH.
WHAT NOW...?
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A QUICK SHOWER...
REALLY?
HEY, IS EVERYTHING OKAY, TETSUO?


I MEAN, ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING?

I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
EH.

IT'S JUST THAT YOU SEEM KIND OF OUT OF IT.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME CRYING OVER SOME STUPID, INSENSITIVE OLD MAN.
WELL,
blush

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO.
BUT JUST KNOW YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING, OKAY?
IT'S GOOD TO DO THAT. I MEAN, I FELT WAY BETTER AFTER TALKING TO YOU ABOUT THAT THING WITH MORI...

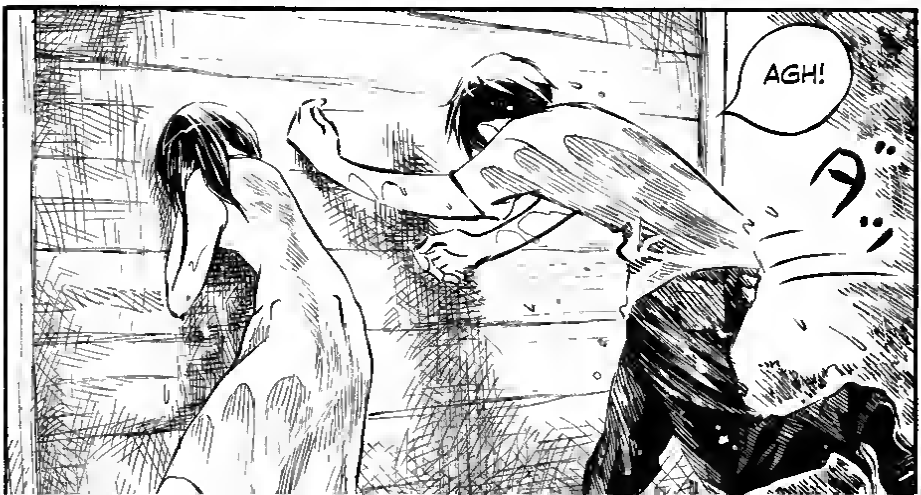
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS AGAIN, JUST LET ME KNOW.
YOU DIDN'T CAUSE ME ANY TROUBLE.
Can we not talk about it too much though? I'm already super embarrassed
YEAH, I GOT REALLY WORKED UP ABOUT THAT... SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.
OKAY.
THANKS!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THAT OLD MAN, ANYWAY?
HON-ESTLY,

Ha
Ha
I KNOW, RIGHT?

She had such a silly, childish smile
It's almost like her face was shining
She cries. She smiles.
Shes always going somewhere
I wanted ta draw her
because she was always so beautiful
HEY, I...
Hanami

GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO RUN!
HEY!
RACE YOU!!
バシャ
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING YOU MIND GETTING WET, DO YOU?
NO, I MEAN, I CAN JUST BUY AN UMBRELLA.
WHA?!
ザアアアアアア
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...
バシャ

バシャ
バシャ
EEK!
バシャ
バシャ


AGH!
ｸﾞｯ

Hah...
HAH
HAH
HAH
ACK.
...
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah

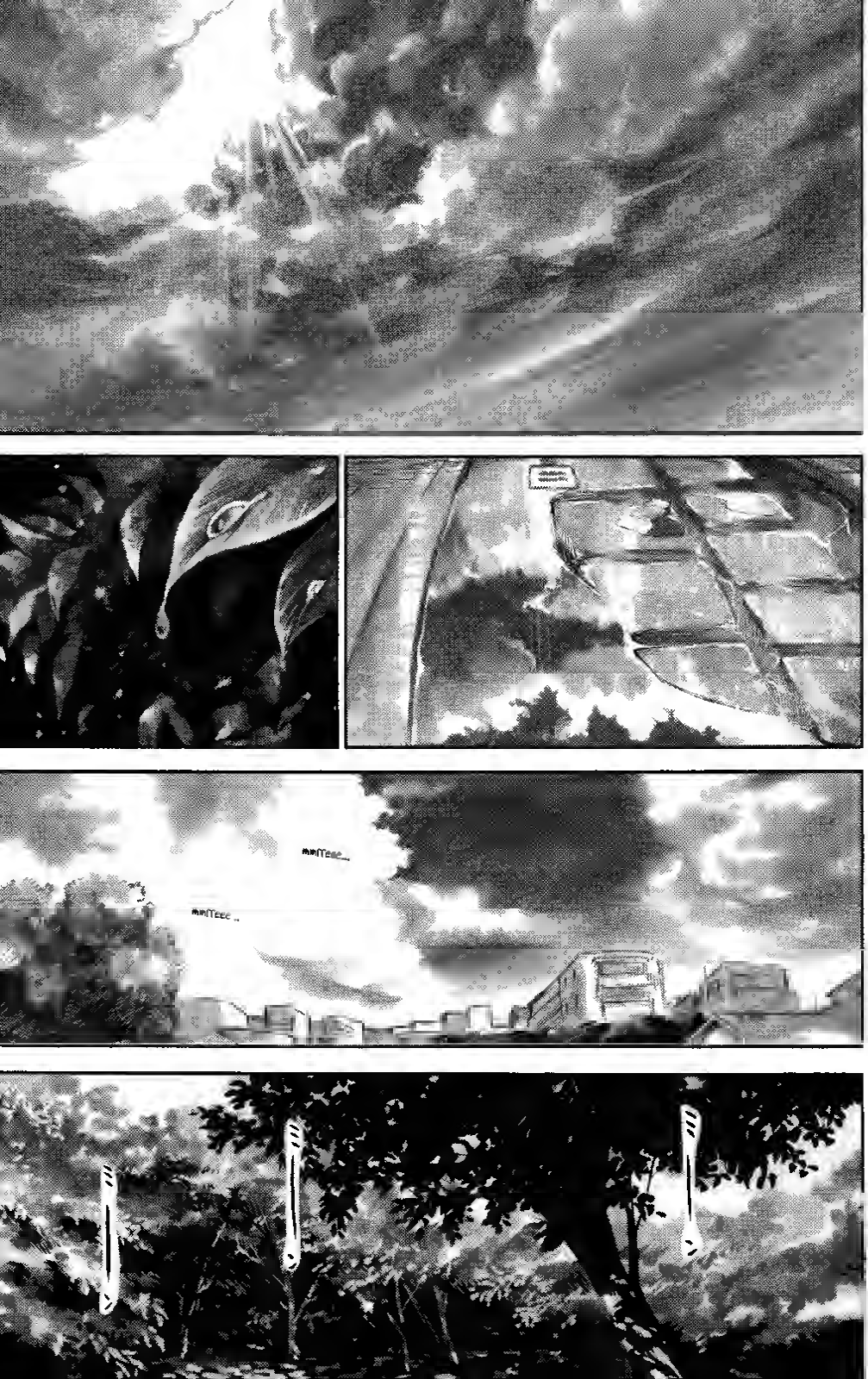
GA
HA
YOU'RE TERRIBLE.
AH HA HA HA HA
YOU STARTED IT!!
HERE...
WHAT THE HECK...
HA HA HA HA
I CA-
I-
I CAN'T BREATHE
DAMN IT.
IT'S SOAKED.
HAHAHA! STOP MAKING ME LAUGH!
IT WON'T TAKE LONG!
HA HA.
UGH.
MY STOMACH HURTS.
HOLD ON, I'LL GO GRAB A FEW TOWELS.
OK.

HAH...
drip
WIPE
WIPE
Ah..
...

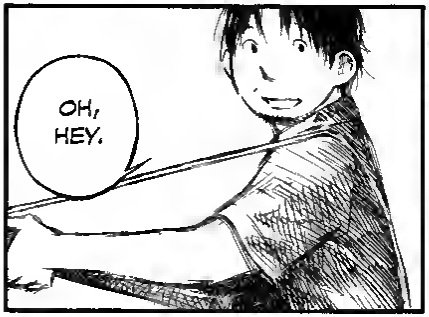
I'm
in love
with you,
Honomi
And there's
not a goddomn
thing I can
do about it.

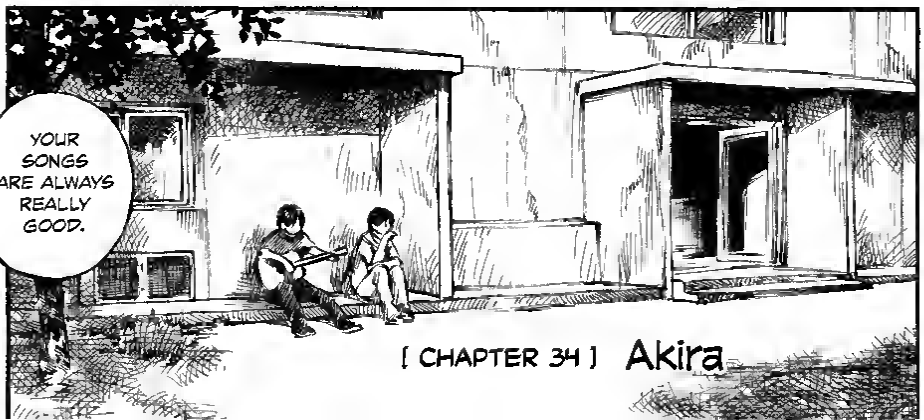
SIGH
HANAMI.
FOUND 'EM!
YEP.

I'm in love with you.



CICA-
DAS.



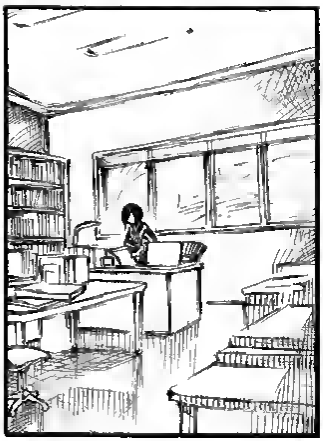


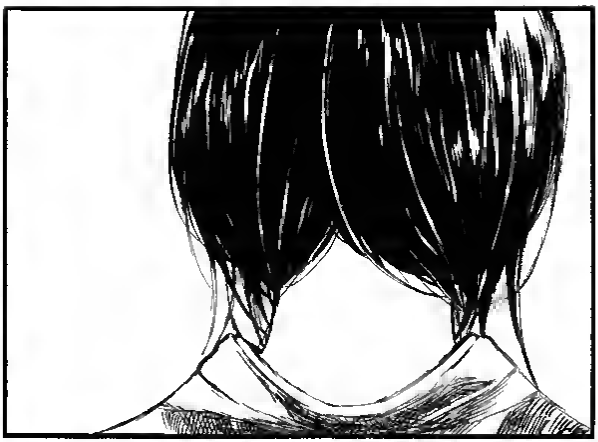
[CHAPTER 34] Akira

NO, WAIT! IF YOU AREN'T DYING, COMPLI-MENT ME MORE! LOTS MORE!!
SHEESH, I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN...
SHUT UP.
WHAT'S WRONG?! YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY!! DON'T DIE ON ME!!
AOK!!! ARE YOU FEELING OKAY, MAN?!
HUH?!
HEY.
DON'T MAKE HANAMI CRY SO MUCH.
NOT YET.
I'M NOT GONNA DIE.

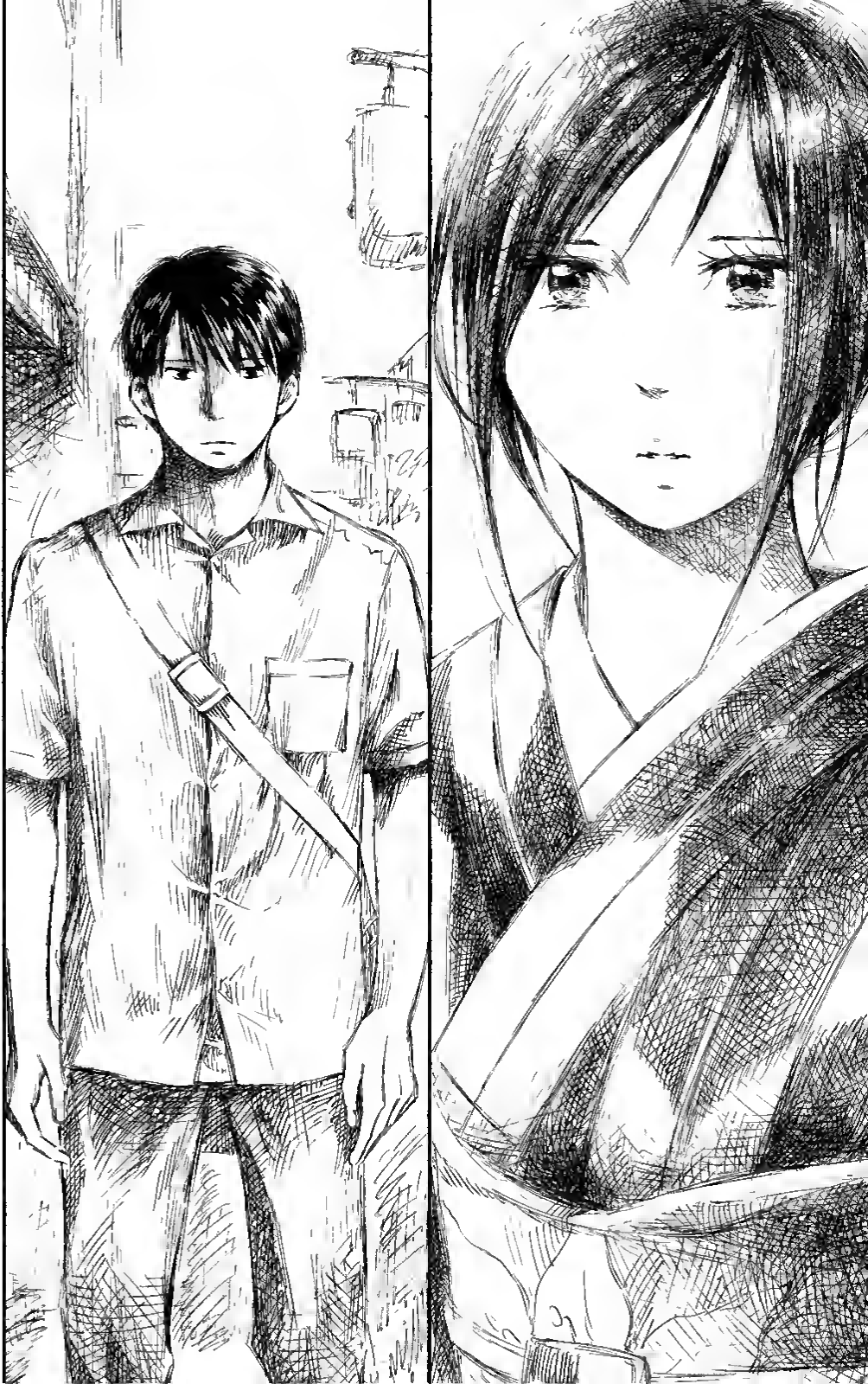
DON'T MAKE MS. AKIRA CRY.
SAME FOR YOU!
...SINCE CRYING GIRLS
ARE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WELL,
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.

MORI'S IN THE PRACTICE BUILDING.
'KAY, THANKS!
HEY!
YOU DIDN'T CATCH A COLD OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?
NOPE.
HEY.
Sorry Mori
But don't worry
I promise just to watch





*MOONLIT GALLERY



月下曲廊

.....
YOU WAITED FOR ME.

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT?
HOW DOES FISH SOUND?

YOU SHOULD'VE JUST COME UP!

WE NEED TO TALK.
OKAY, AFTER WE GET BACK.
LET'S STOP BY THE GROCERY STORE, TOO.
NO, WE NEED TO TALK *NOW*.

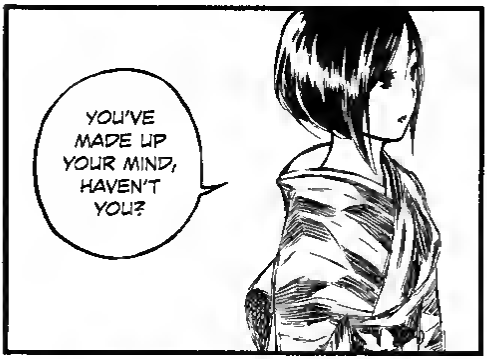
I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

SO, I WANT TO BREAK UP.

BREAK UP?
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE MY LOVER?

DON'T DO THAT...
I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE.
...
...I KNOW IT'S SELFISH, BUT...
I...

I KNOW.


YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, HAVEN'T YOU?

YEAH.

IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED, WASN'T IT?
...
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
THEN,
TH-
...
THANK YOU.

...OK.
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU PICKED UP YOUR THINGS WHILE I'M NOT THERE.
....
NOT SURE
DO YOU HAVE CLOTHES OR ANYTHING ELSE AT MY APARTMENT?
GOOD-BYE.

So I guess that means..
to her.
I was only ever..
..I guess
I was expecting her..
to be angrier,
or to confront me and ask a bunch of questions
This is stupid...
Why do I feel so depressed?
This is what I wanted

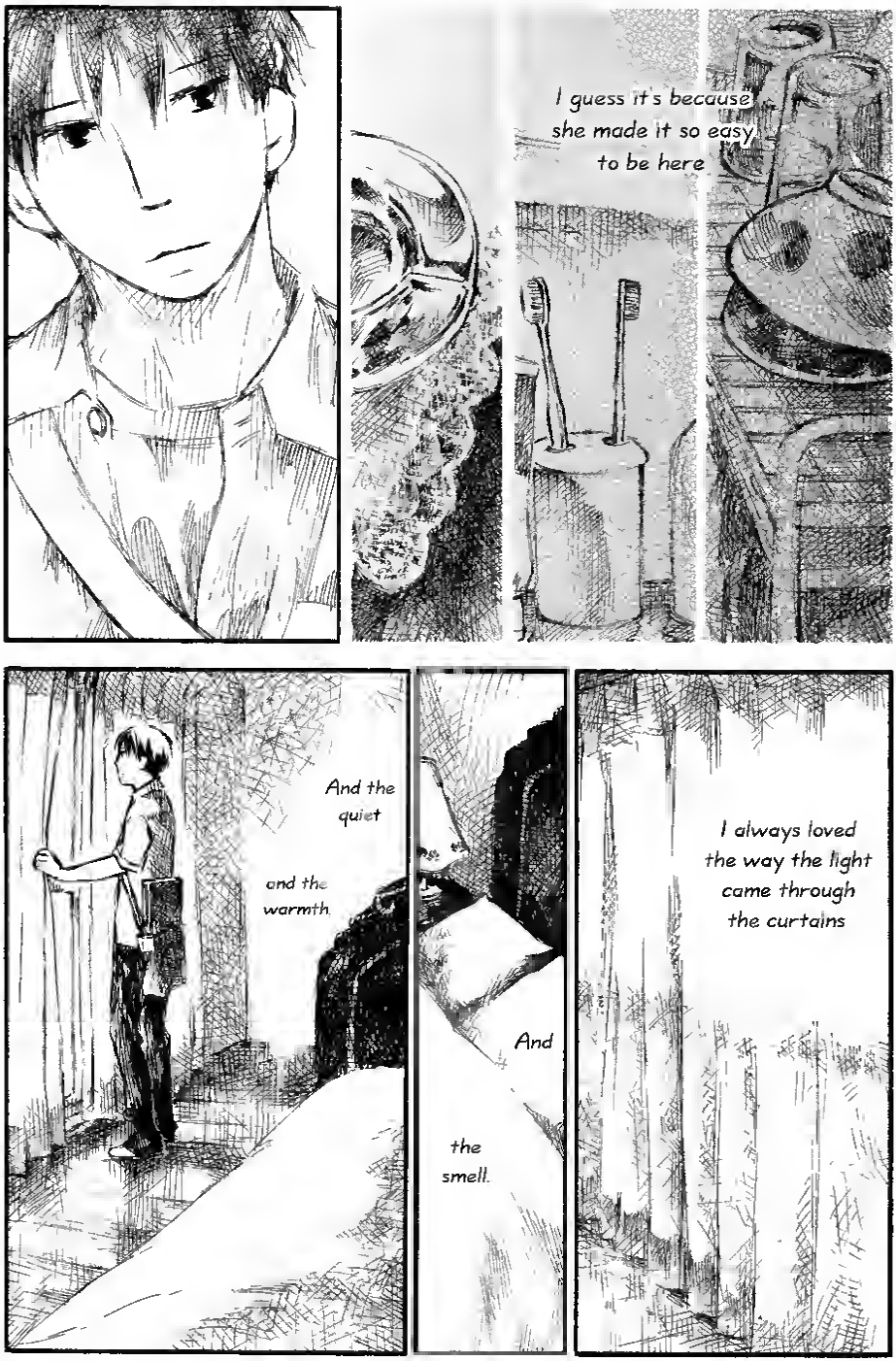
No. I ended it.
sigh
YEAH... I SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT THINGS WENT SO SMOOTHLY.
I'm the one who stopped putting effort into being together.
OH. RIGHT. A NEW MOON.
If she tried to fight it... make me feel less certain about it... I wouldn't have said I wanted to break up.
even if I tried
I couldn't see it

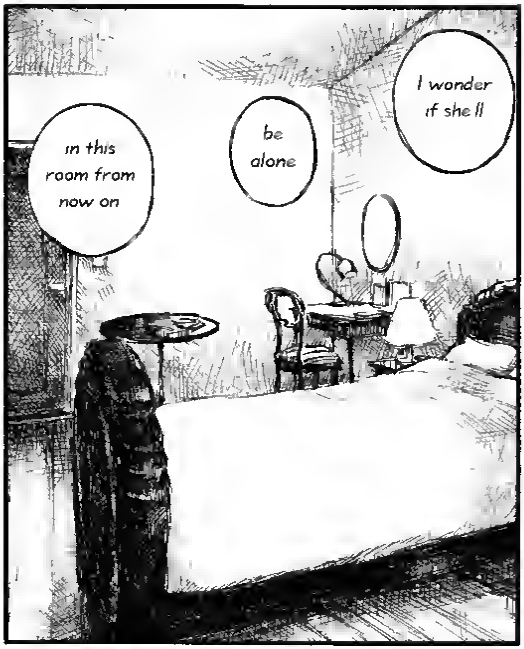
...IT'S OVER.
It's over.

WANT ONE?
YOU MADE THESE?
YEAH.
WHAT A SHAME. GUESS THAT MEANS THIS STARVED YOUTH WON'T BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SANDWICH I WAS GOING TO GIVE HIM.
OH? GOING HOME ALREADY?
I'LL BE BACK LATER.
JUST FOR A BIT.
Nom
Nom
...
WELL, WHATEVER. I DON'T REALLY CARE.
WHAT?! WH-WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
I BET YOU THINK I'M JUST PROCRASTINATING ON *THAT.*
YOU KNOW,
KAY...
I ***WILL*** FINISH IT.

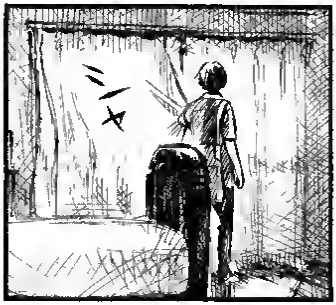
HEY,
YOU'VE CHANGED.
HOW ...?
HMM.
I DUNNO, I JUST GET THE FEEL ING.
AH,
BUT IN A GOOD WAY.
YEP.
DEF- INITELY.
BEFORE, YOU WOULD'VE JUST SAID YOU DON'T NEED THE SANDWICH.
BUT YOU
DIDN'T DO THAT.
...
I GUESS SO...

SO...
JUST THIS, HUH...?

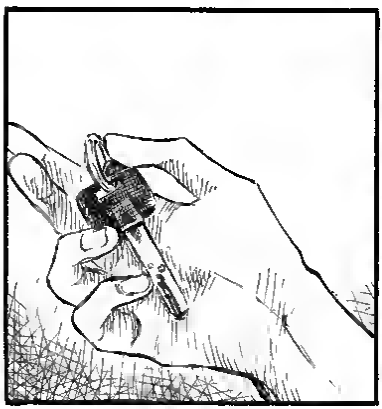

I guess it's because she made it so easy to be here
And the quiet
and the warmth
And
the smell.
I always loved the way the light came through the curtains

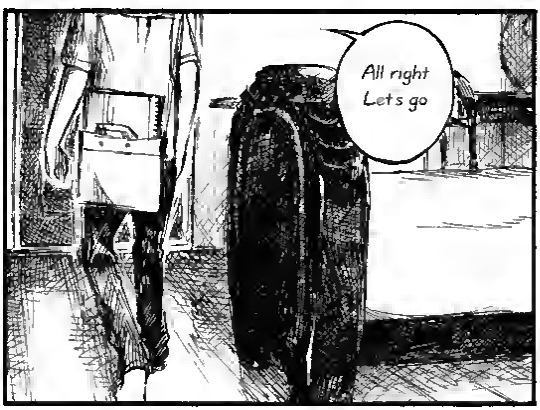

I wonder if she'll be alone in this room from now on

I should have just thanked her



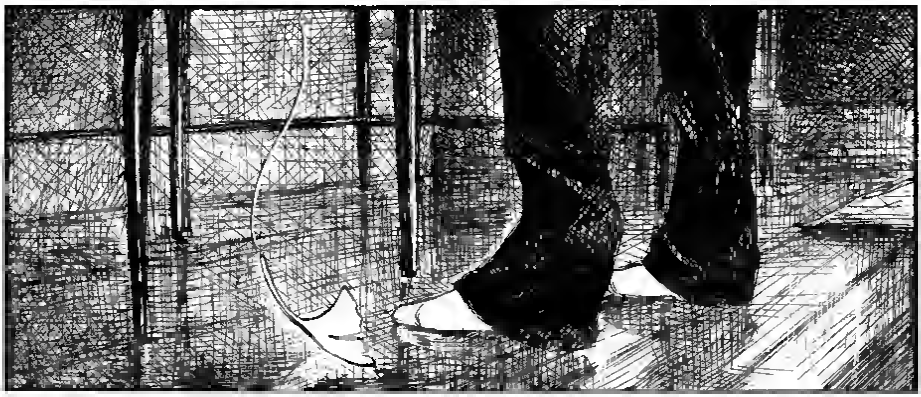
It was like that before we met
So
Nah she'll be fine




All right Let's go

*THE LETTERS OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

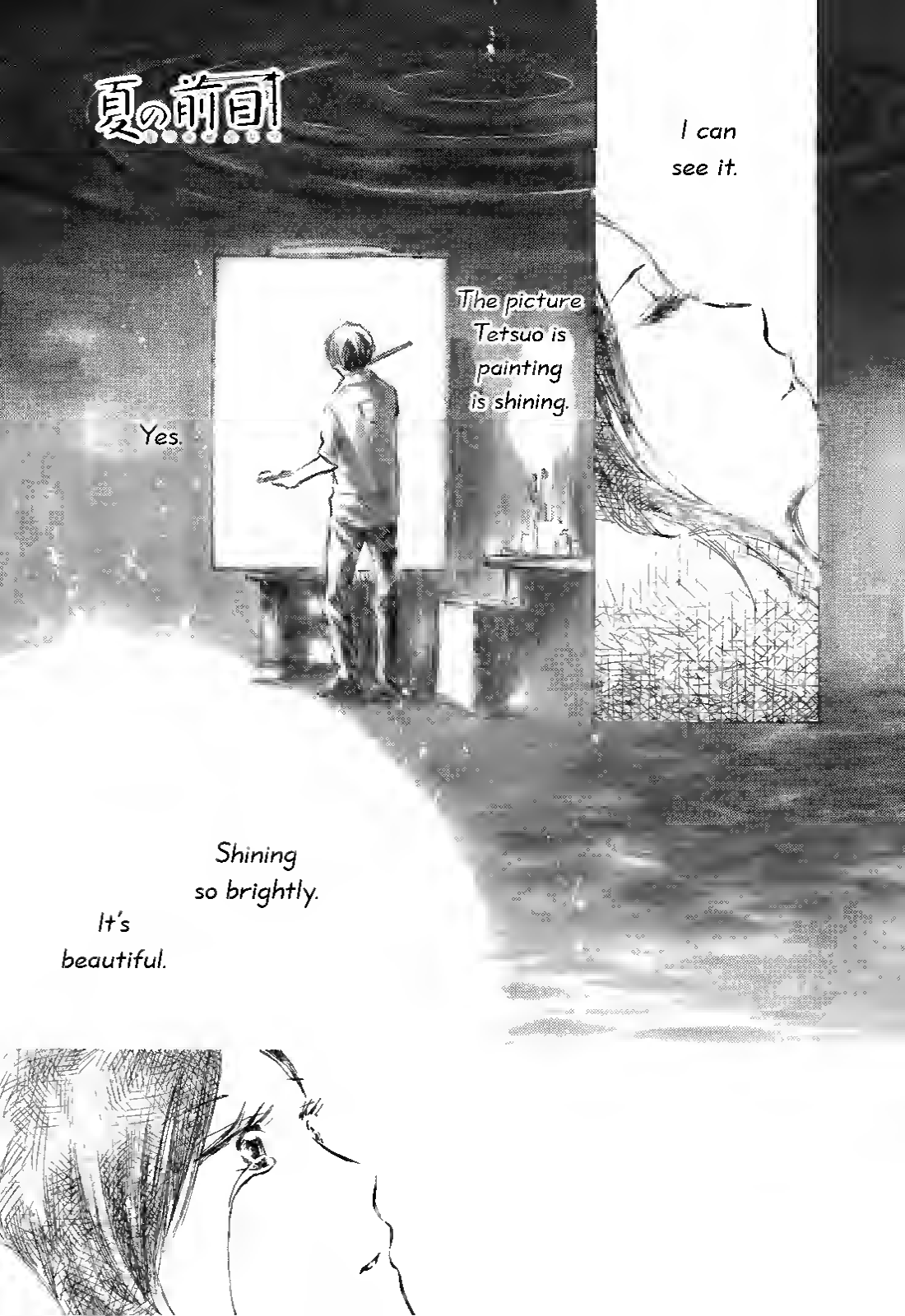
力
廿
手紙



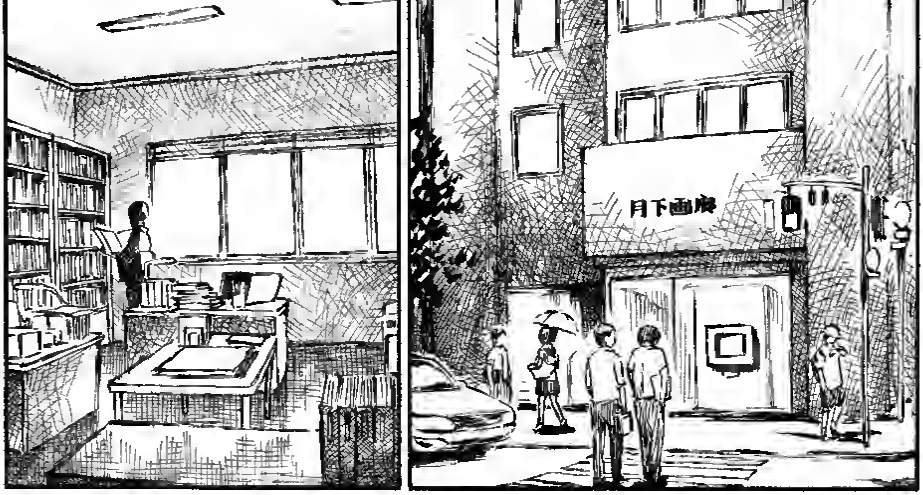
ばっ
...
HK.
HRK.

Pi.p
Pi.p
Pi.p
WHY DO YOU STILL HAVE THIS?!

Tetsuo.
Tetsuo.
Akira.


夏の前日
I can see it.
The picture Tetsuo is painting is shining.
Yes.
Shining so brightly.
It's beautiful.

[FINALE] Memories of Summer



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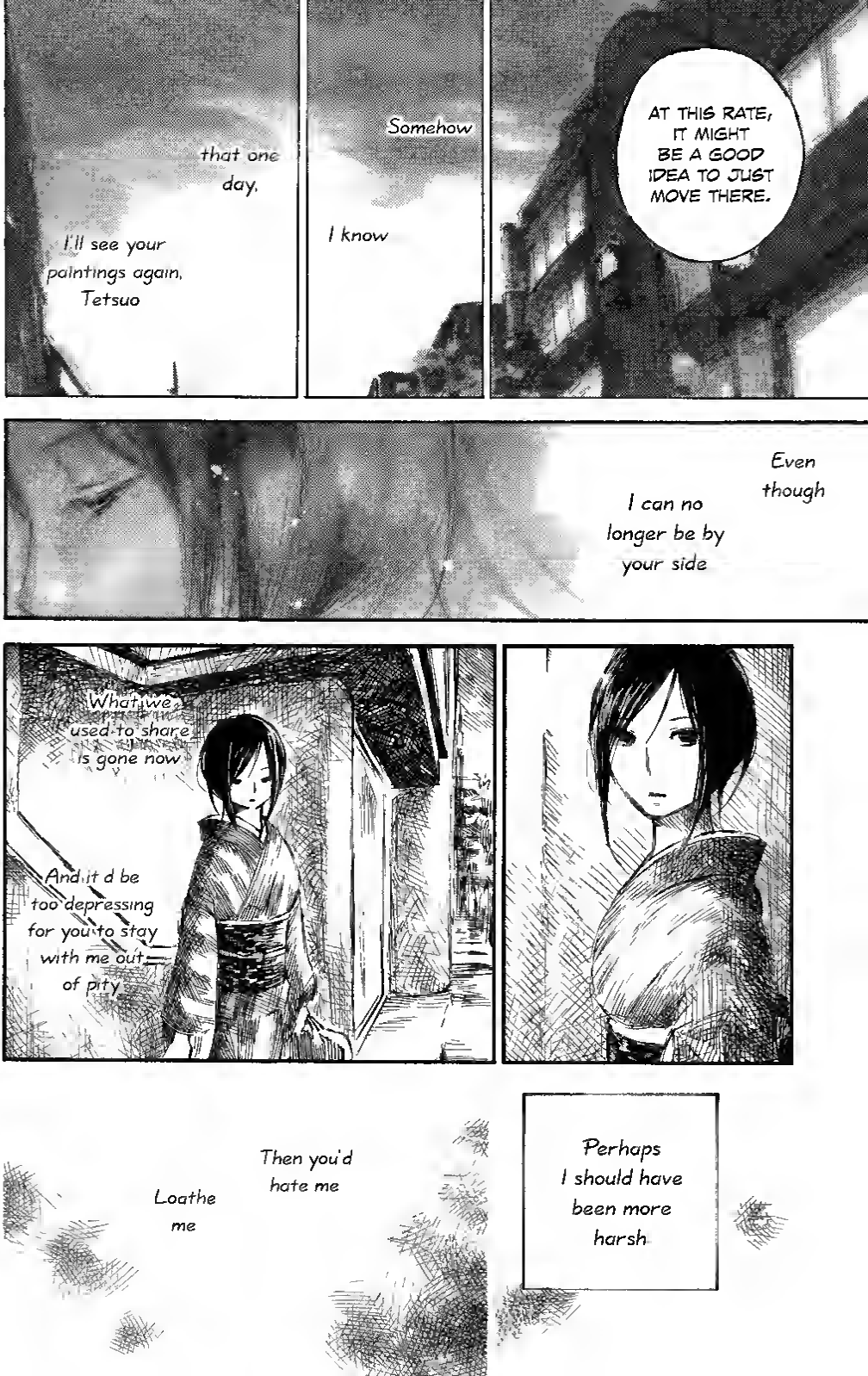
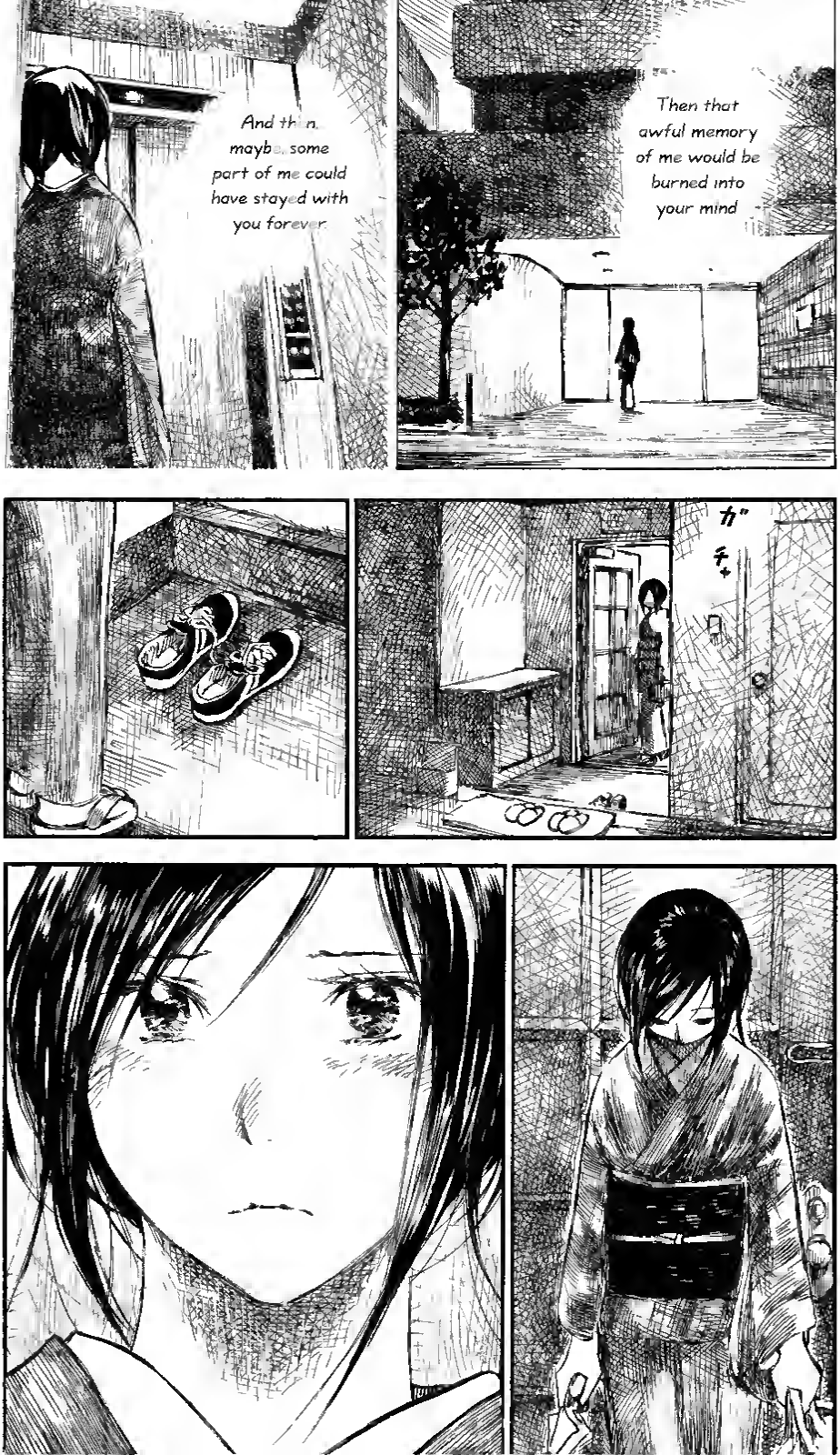
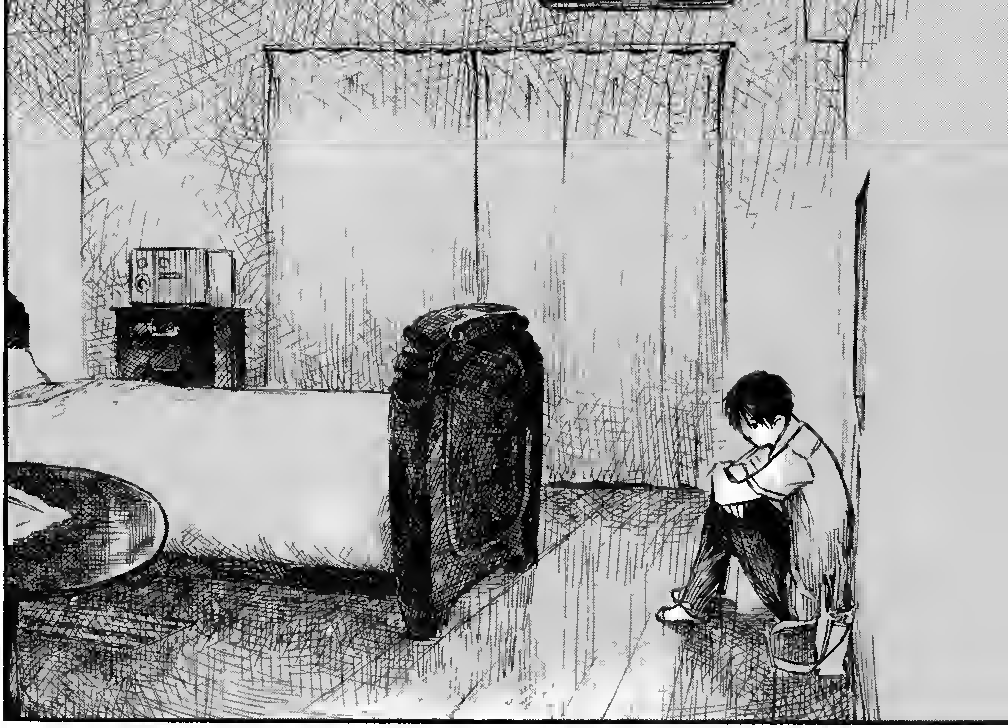
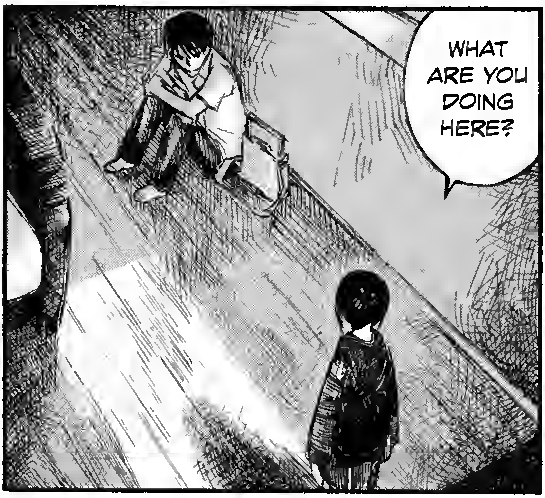

that one day,
I'll see your paintings again, Tetsuo
Somehow
I know
AT THIS RATE, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO JUST MOVE THERE.
Even though
I can no longer be by your side
What we used to share is gone now
And it'd be too depressing for you to stay with me out of pity
Then you'd hate me
Loathe me
Perhaps I should have been more harsh


And then, maybe, some part of me could have stayed with you forever.
Then that awful memory of me would be burned into your mind
カ"
チャ




WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ANSWER ME.

WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?
I TOLD YOU TO PICK UP YOUR THINGS WHILE I WASN'T HERE.
IF YOU'RE DONE, LEAVE.
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO TALK ABOUT.
I WANT-ED TO TALK.

LEAVE.
HOW I REALLY FELT.
I NEVER TOLD YOU...
I WANT YOU TO UNDER-STAND...
...THE REASON I LEFT WASN'T BECAUSE I DIDN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE—
STOP.
HEY... LISTEN TO ME.
GO.
JUST GO!!

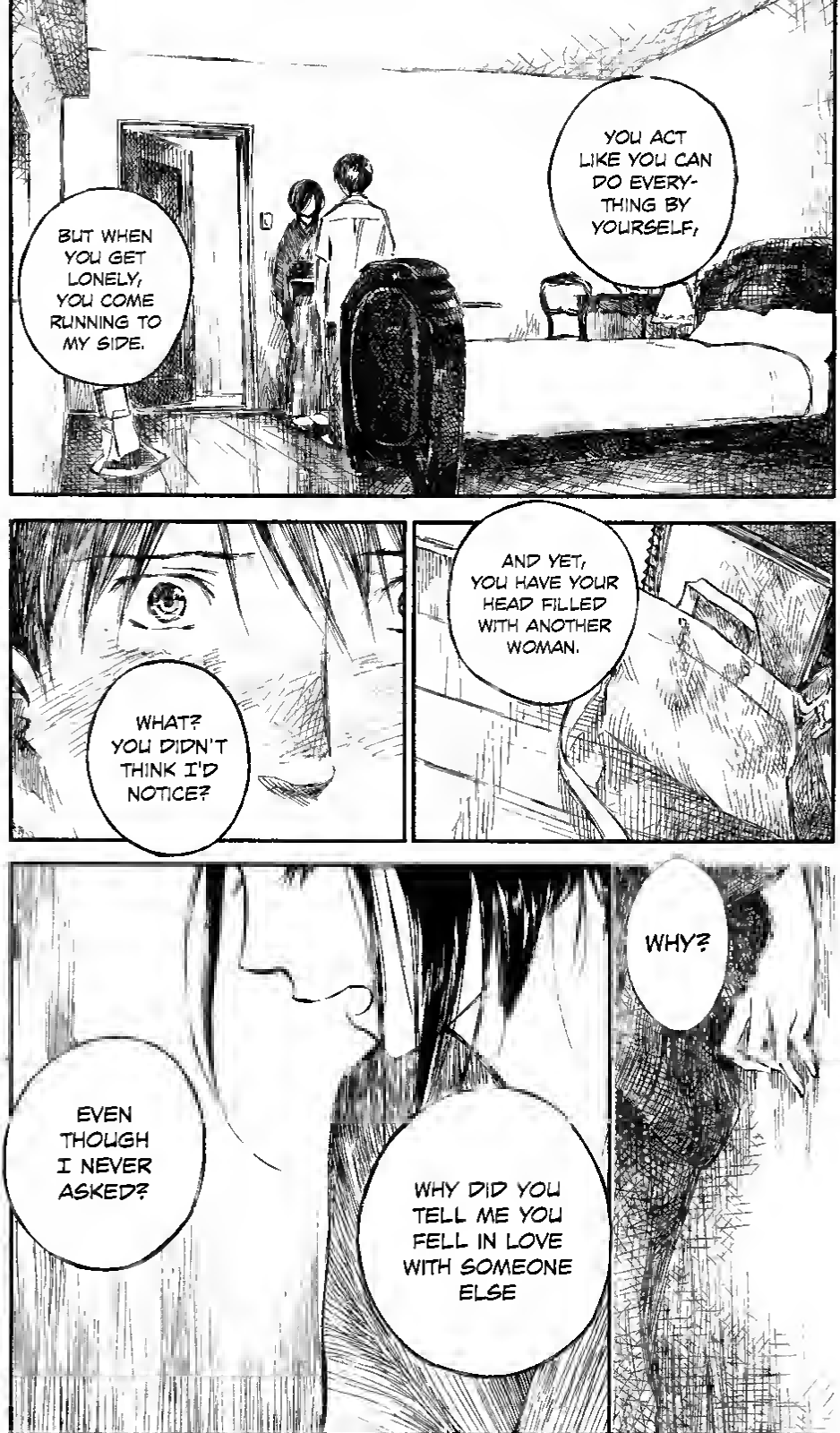
PLEASE!! LISTEN TO ME!!
AND THEN YOU THROW ME AWAY.
YOU
FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER WOMAN,

DO YOU WANT MY FORGIVE-NESS?
NO!
YOU THROW AWAY A WOMAN,
AND THEN,
YOU TRY TO MAKE YOUR-SELF FEEL BETTER BY JUSTIFY-ING IT.

JUST HOW MUCH
OF A SPOILED BRAT ARE YOU?
...
YOU'RE SELFISH.

YOU ARE SO SELFISH.

YOU COME WHEN YOU PLEASE
AND GO WHEN YOU PLEASE.
YOU
ONLY EVER THINK ABOUT YOURSELF.

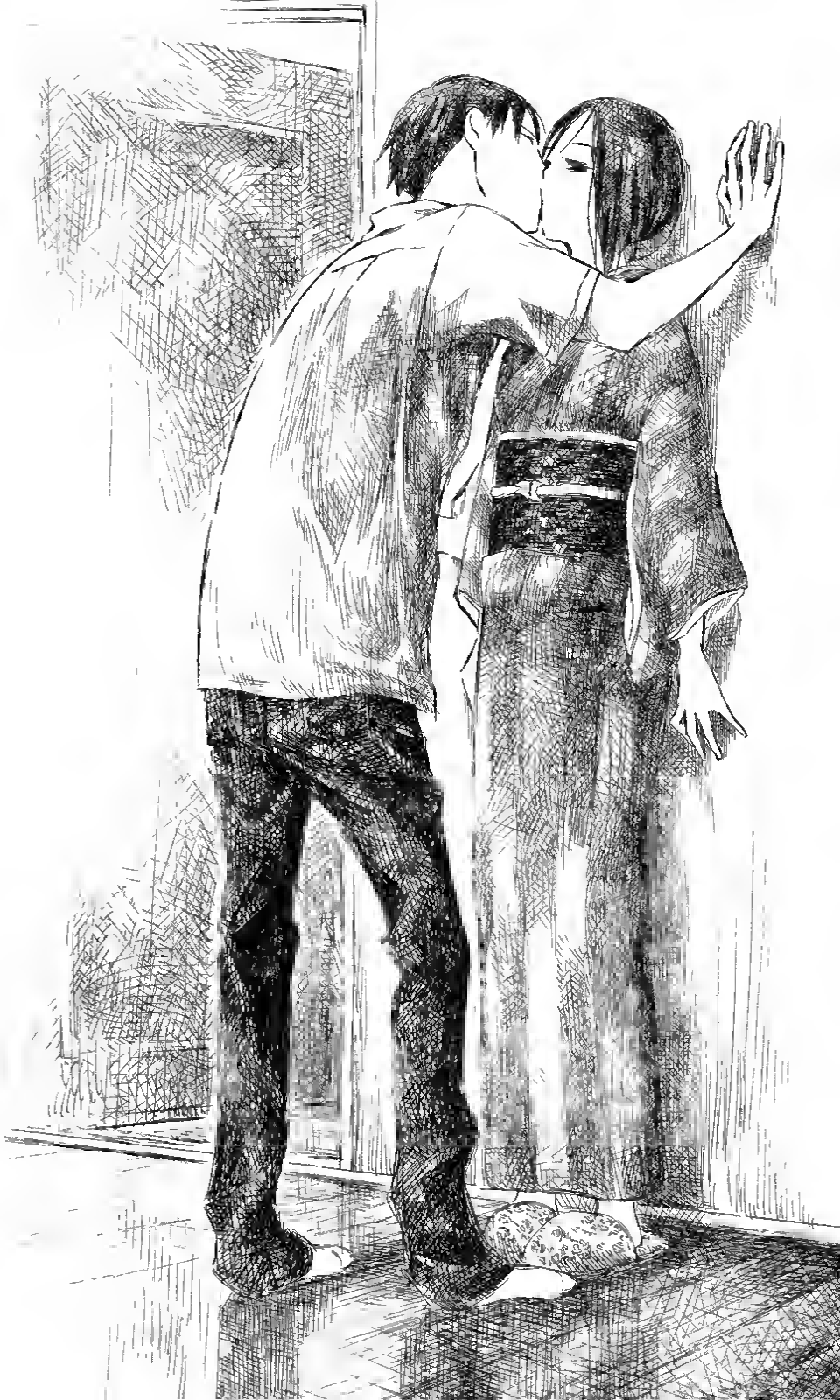

YOU ACT LIKE YOU CAN DO EVERY-THING BY YOURSELF,
BUT WHEN YOU GET LONELY, YOU COME RUNNING TO MY SIDE.
AND YET, YOU HAVE YOUR HEAD FILLED WITH ANOTHER WOMAN.
WHAT? YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D NOTICE?
WHY?
WHY DID YOU TELL ME YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE
EVEN THOUGH I NEVER ASKED?

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND COME WHENEVER YOU FELT LIKE IT?
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST KEPT LYING TO ME?!

I'M SORRY, I W-
NO.
DON'T APOLO-GIZE.
DON'T MAKE EXCUSES.
DON'T TEAR ME APART.

PL-
EASE.
I LIKE
SELFISH
MEN.

TE-
TSUO.
BE THE SELFISH MAN YOU ARE UNTIL THE VERY END.

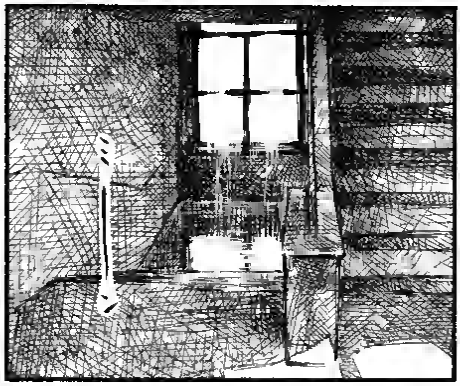
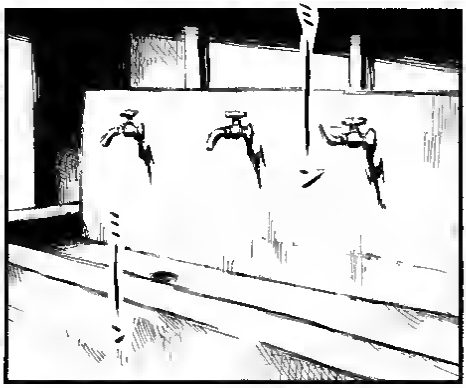


BYE.

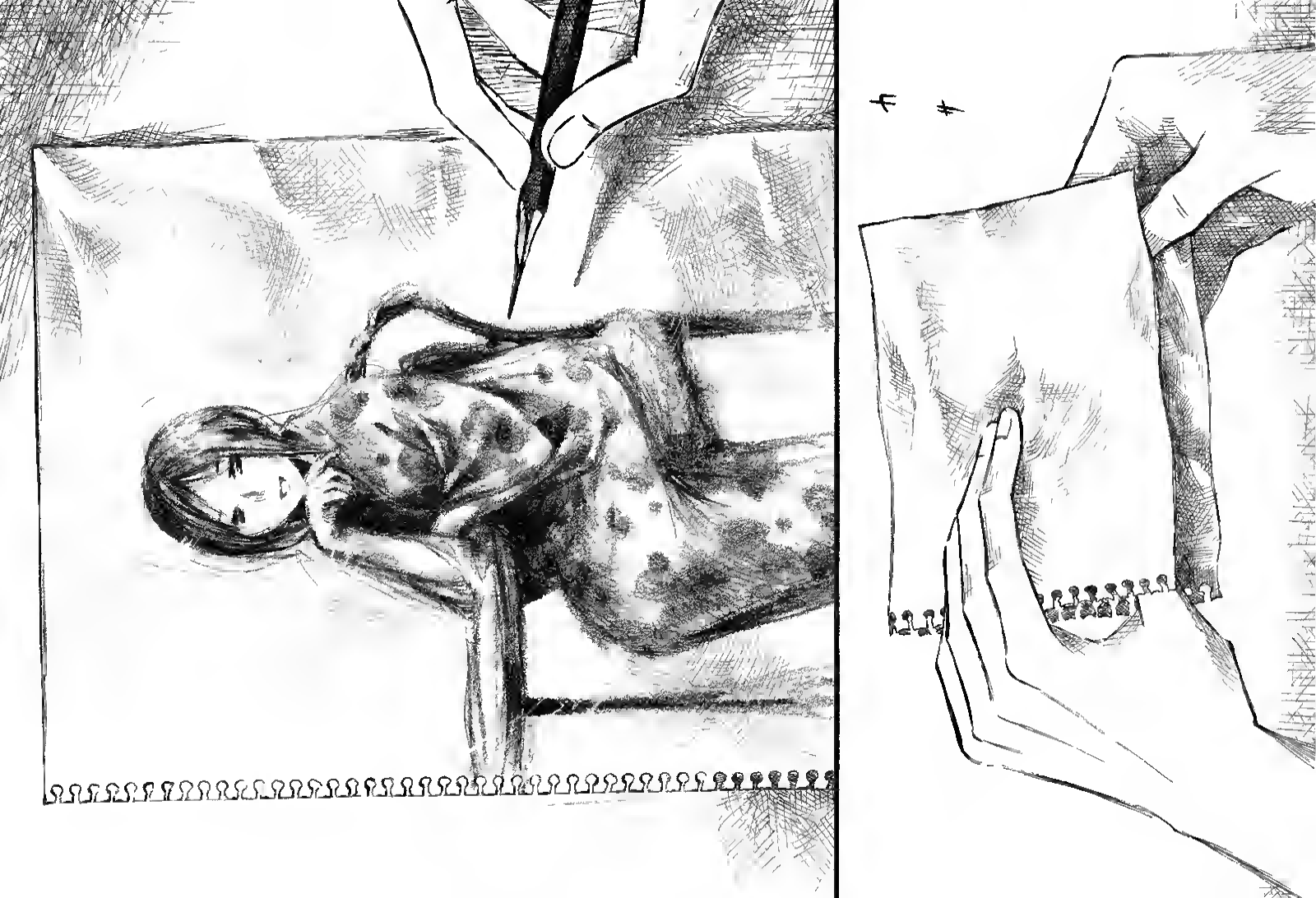
SLAM

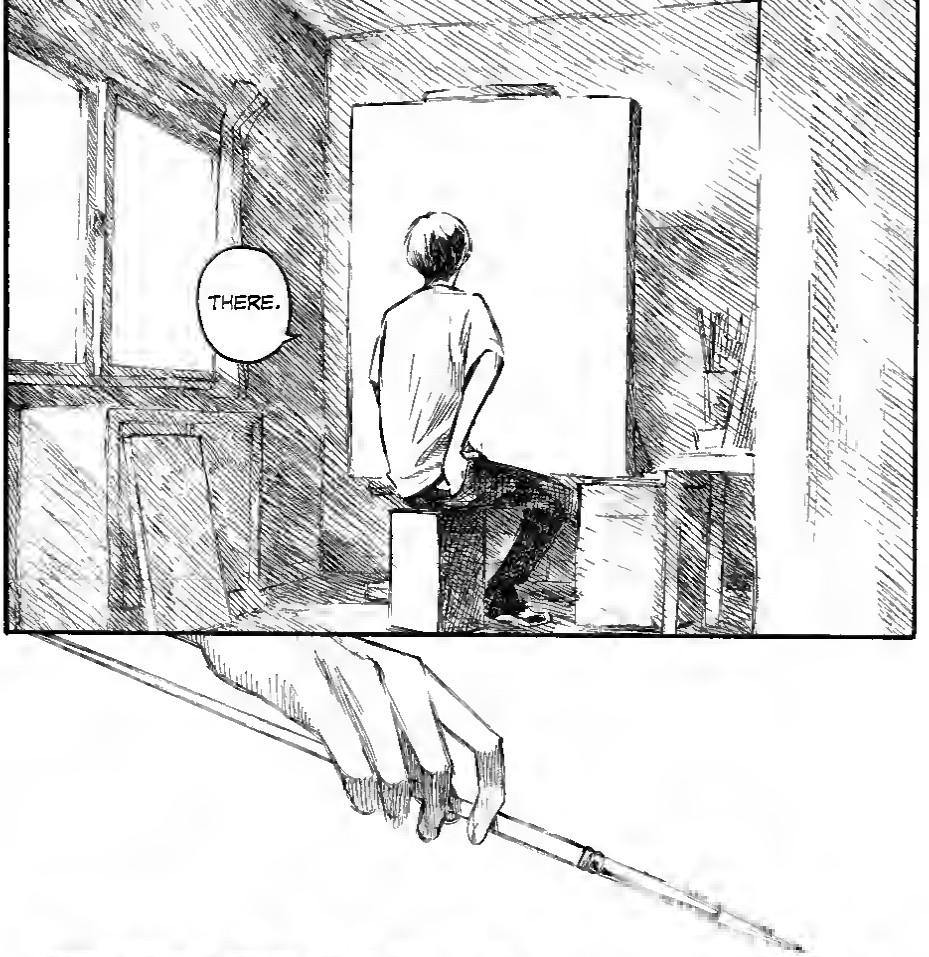
THIS IS FOR THE BEST...

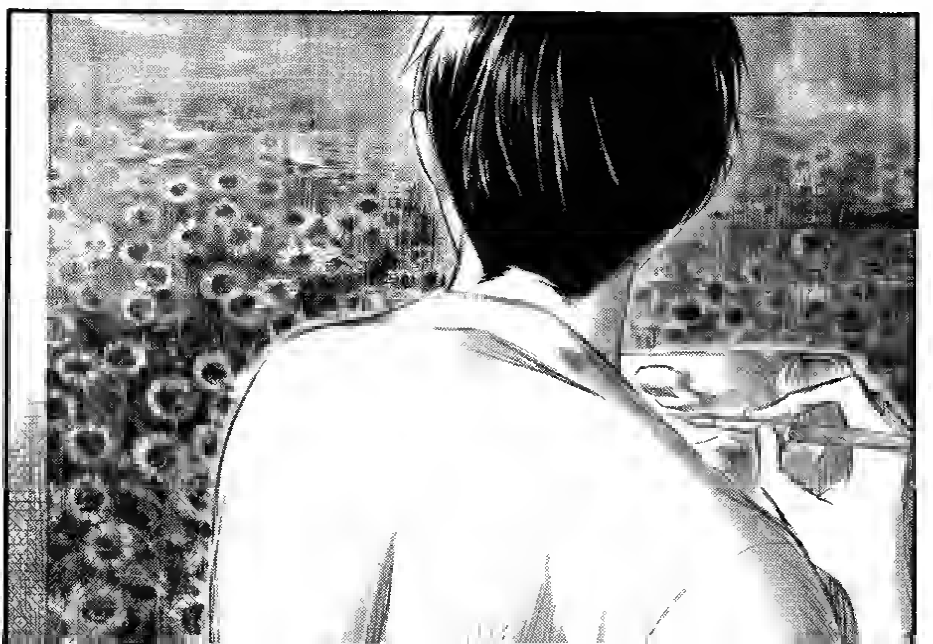
I loved it.
That face he made... like I was the last thing on his mind.

HEY!
Bzzt
zzzt
...The rainy season seems to have finally ended here. Get ready folks! Sunny skies over the whole of Japan—
Sszt
zzt
zzt
Expect a high pressure system to make its way from the pacific...




THERE.



[NATSU NO ZENJITSU] END

Thank you all for reading.

I remember when I first had the desire to draw this series, and now it's finally complete. It took a lot longer than I had expected, but here we are. This wouldn't have been possible without you readers. I thank you for watching over Ms. Akira and Tetsuo's journey.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Afternoon Magazine editorial department, Futaba Planning Agency, Kyodo Printing, Toppan Printing, Nartis Book Design, Daitara, and my editor Mr. S. Many people helped me publish this work, and I would like to thank all of them from the bottom of my heart.

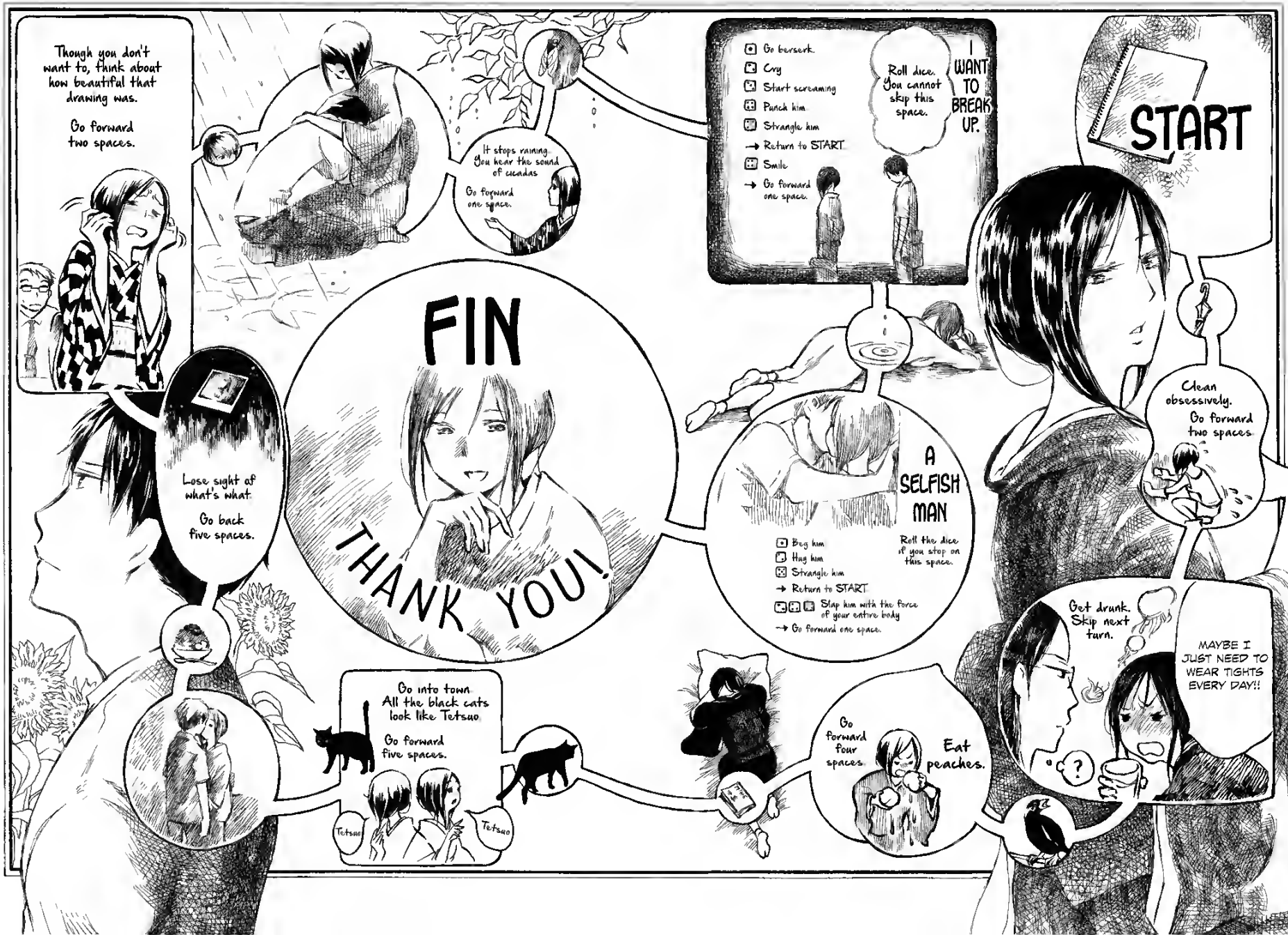
I borrowed the title from the song Natsu no Zenjitsu composed by Takimoto Kouji (from the band Tama).
I listened to a lot of songs written by Mr. Takimoto while I was working on this series, and the atmosphere inspired me in many ways, so I'd like to thank him too.

Once again, thank you all for everything!

August 2014 Yoshida Motoi

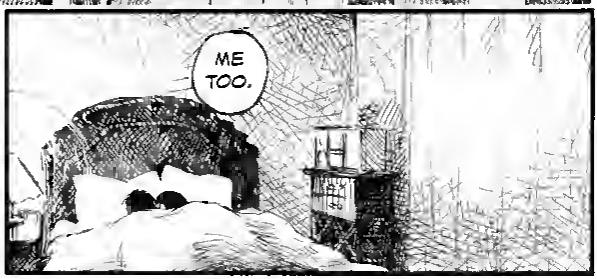
A Fun Extra

Natsu no Zenjitsu Board Game ~A Woman's Agony~


START
Though you don't want to, think about how beautiful that drawing was.
Go forward two spaces.
It stops raining. You hear the sound of cicadas.
Go forward one space.
Go berserk.
Cry
Start screaming
Punch him
Strangle him
→ Return to START
Smile
→ Go forward one space.
Roll dice. You cannot skip this space.
I WANT TO BREAK UP.
Clean obsessively.
Go forward two spaces.
Get drunk. Skip next turn.
MAYBE I JUST NEED TO WEAR TIGHTS EVERY DAY!!
Eat peaches.
Go forward four spaces.
Go into town. All the black cats look like Tetsuo.
Go forward five spaces.
Tetsuo
Tetsuo
Lose sight of what's what.
Go back five spaces.
FIN
THANK YOU!
A SELFISH MAN
Roll the dice if you stop on this space.
Beg him
Hug him
Strangle him
→ Return to START
Slap him with the force of your entire body
→ Go forward one space.

I'M GLAD WE GOT TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S TOGETHER.

WHAT DID YOU WISH FOR?

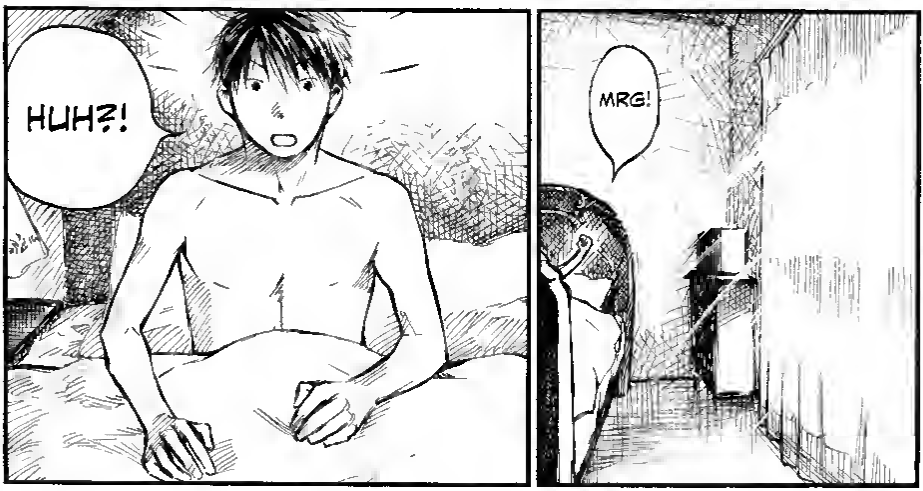

ME TOO.

I JUST THANKED GOD FOR SAFELY GETTING ME THROUGH THE YEAR.
I SEE.

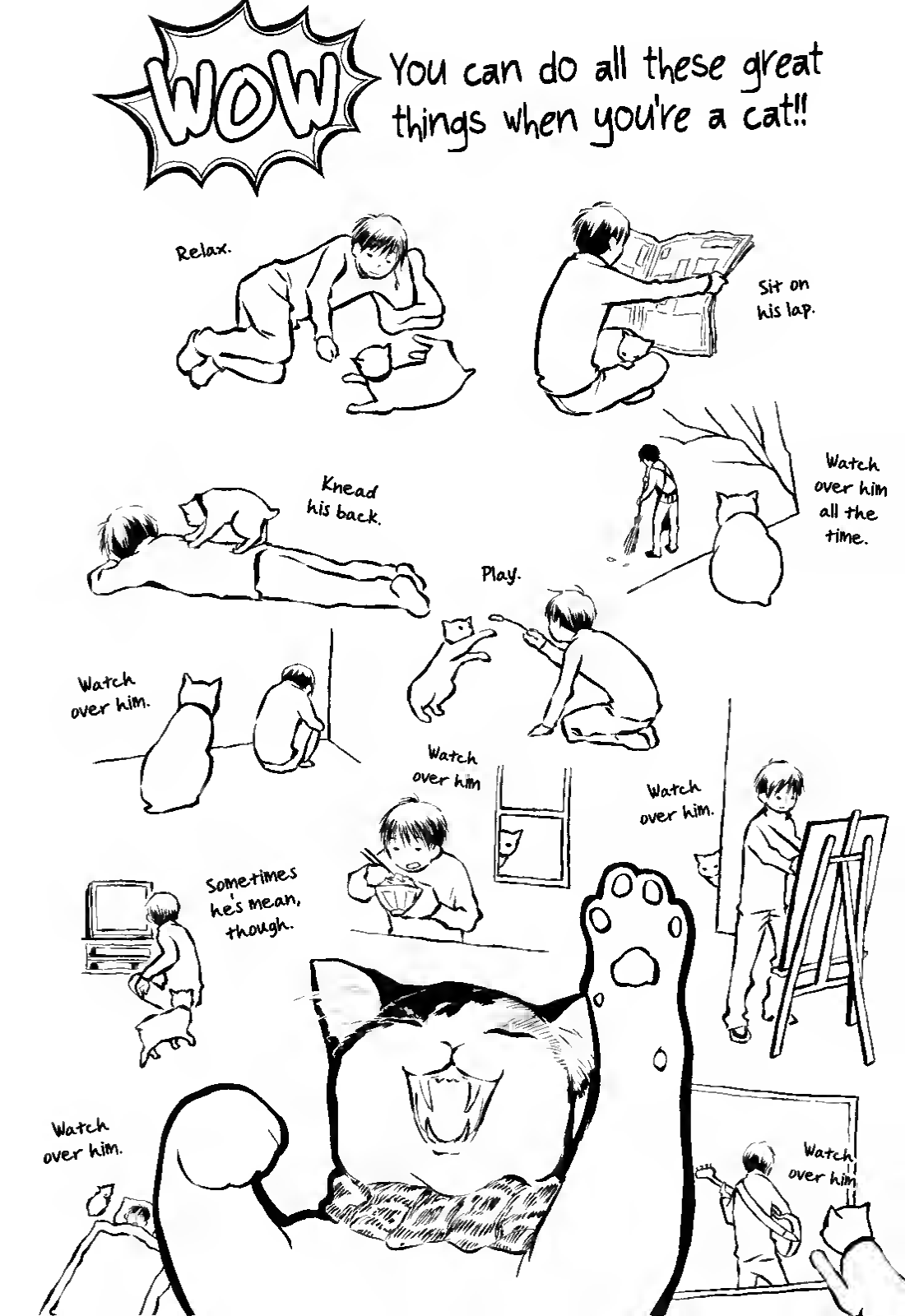
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

GOOD HEALTH.
That's impor— tant.

[SIDE STORY] Memories of New Year's



Tetsuo!
Tetsuo!!
...AKIRA? WHAT'S THIS CAT DOING HERE?
Tetsuo!
YOU HUNGRY?
No, I'm not. Can't you tell? I'm a cat now!
It's me! I've finally become a cat!!
Tetsuo!!
HUH... WHERE'D SHE GO?
Tetsuo!!

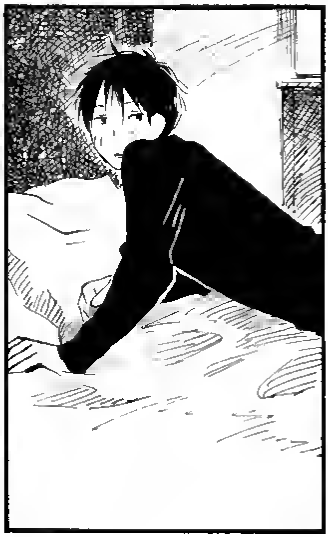

WOW
You can do all these great things when you're a cat!!
Relax.
Sit on his lap.
Watch over him all the time.
Knead his back.
Play.
Watch over him.
Watch over him
Watch over him.
Sometimes he's mean, though.
Watch over him.
Watch over him

flip
flip
pet pet pet
pet pet pet
pet pet
pet
YOU'RE CUTE.
Of course I am.
purr purr
purr
purr
YOU'RE BEAU-TIFUL.
I BET YOU'RE FROM SOME HIGH CLASS FAMILY.
Not neces-sarily.
Only with you.
VERY CUDDLY, TOO.

So you're nice to cats, is that it?
Ah
Aah!
Hah...
No!
Stop that!

But like this,
we can no longer
become one

That's the
one thing
I'll miss



WHERE DID...
OH.
...A DREAM.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING ANOTHER YEAR TOGETHER.
AH, SAME HERE.
...
Cat hair?
FIN

[SIDE STORY] Memories of February 14th

....
...DID YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SET IT UP LIKE THAT? YOU'RE SICK.
C'MON, YOU KNOW WHY. IT'LL BE FEBRUARY 13TH.
THAT'S VALEN-TINE'S EVE!
...?
WHY?
YOU DO KNOW THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS VALEN-TINE'S EVE, RIGHT?
BUT HEY, IT'D BE PRETTY AWESOME IF WE GOT CHOCOLATE FOR SINGING!!
I SWEAR!!
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE!
...
A CHOCO-LATE MAKING KIT?
VALENTINE'S Special Chocolate
OPEN
café galerie

THANK YOU.
YES.
I TOLD YOU, JUST FOR ME.
WE CAN EAT IT TOGETHER.
OOO~ WHO'S IT FOR?
HANAMI~
OH? AH, VERY GOOD, THANKS.
HOW'S THE HOT CHOCOLATE?
VALENTINES, HUH...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS.
....
カランコロン

BOTH OF US HAVE TO WORK THAT DAY ANYWAY.
HE DOESN'T EVEN LIKE CHOCO-LATE.
SO NO PLANS TO SPEAK OF?
YOU'RE GONNA GIVE TETSUO SOME GAUDY HANDMADE CHOCOLATE, AREN'T YOU?
Like this.
哲生 "Love"
NO, I WILL NOT.
I take offense to that.
And then one of you will say "You're sweeter than any chocolate, baby"
WELL, I BOUGHT SOME GOOD SAKE.
ODDLY ENOUGH, HE CAN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR VERY WELL.
Jealousy, misery, envy... Try as she may, Hatoko could not suppress the dark emotions welling up towards her friend of 15 years.
BUT HIS DRUNK FACE IS SO ADORABLE.

Feb. 13th
ドカッ
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
STUFF PEOPLE GAVE ME
AT OUR SHOW TODAY...

I DON'T EAT CHOCOLATE, SO IT'S MOSTLY A PAIN...
NOT REALLY.
OH.
WELL THAT'S NICE.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
THE ATMOSPHERE MADE IT KINDA HARD TO...
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST POLITELY REFUSED THEM.
.....
SO, ARTISTS?
YEP.
AND CUST-OMERS.
OTH-ERS, TOO.
WELL,
I'M MAKING CHOCOLATE FOR THE PEOPLE I WORK WITH.
.....
CHOCO-SWEETS FOR THE HOME
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT MAKING ANY FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE CHOCOLATE.
HMM.
OH, SO NONE FOR ME.
FINE WITH ME, I GUESS.

YOU CAN HAVE EM.
I DON'T NEED THEM.
ALL RIGHT, I GOTTA GO TO WORK.
WAIT, WHAT ABOUT THESE?
YOU DON'T
NEED THEM?

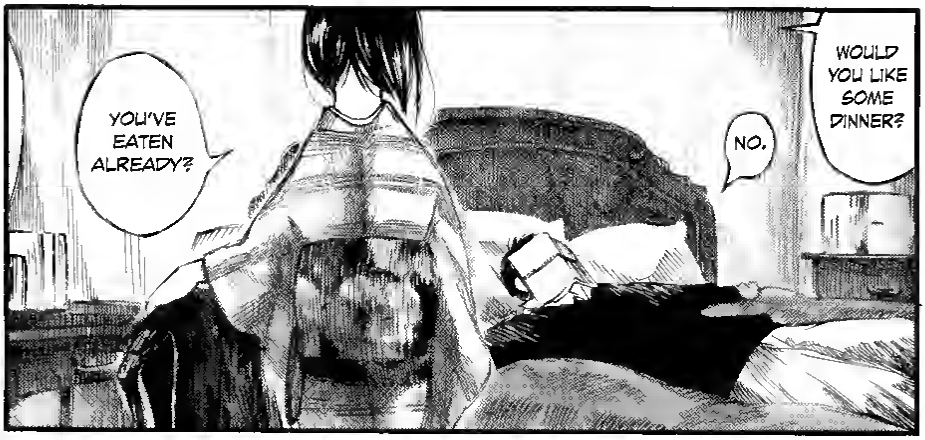
Chocolate
Ingredients: cocoa mass, sugar, cocoa butter, milk power, etc.
Valentine's Day
Also known as St. Valentine of Rome
a priest in Rome
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
...THEY JUST GAVE THEM TO BE POLITE.
JUST WHAT DO VALENTINE CHOCOLATES MEAN TO YOU?!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE.
BESIDES, YOU'RE JUST GIVING THEM OUT LIKE CHRISTMAS CANDY.
...OR IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS?

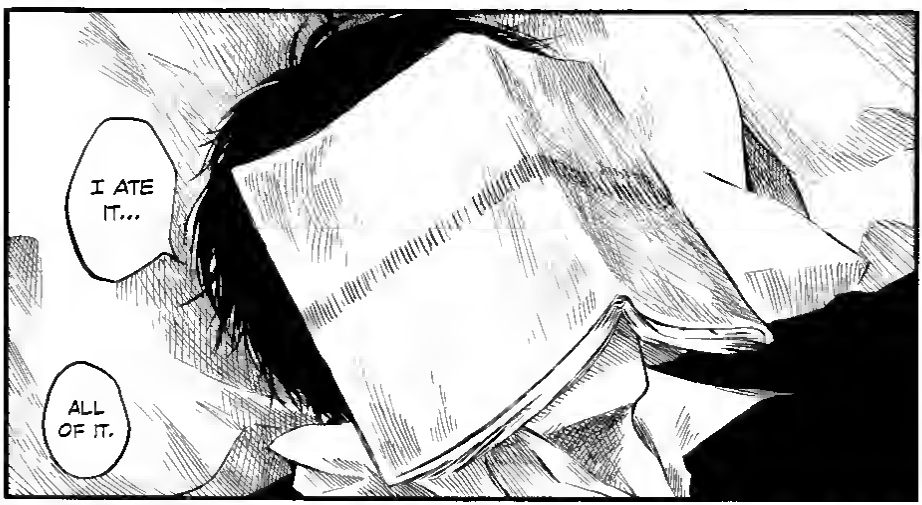
I WON'T TELL YOU TO EAT SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE,
BUT TRAMPLING ON PEOPLE'S FEELINGS LIKE THEY MEAN NOTHING IS UNFORGIVABLE!
thmp
thmp
thmp
thmp
YOU'RE NOT THE MAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE!

And Finally,
Feb. 14th
café galerie こばと
someone who'd cry when her friends were sad, and celebrate when they were happy.
Hatoko's mom once told me that she wanted her daughter to be...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HE CAME IN ALL PROUD OF HIMSELF, LIKE SOME CAT DRAGGING IN A DEAD MOUSE.
OHOHO~ SO THEN YOU FOUGHT.
We did not!
I'm so sorry She grew up to be a woman with a black heart
Why won't she do it more?!
Just yell at me!
Akira scalded me

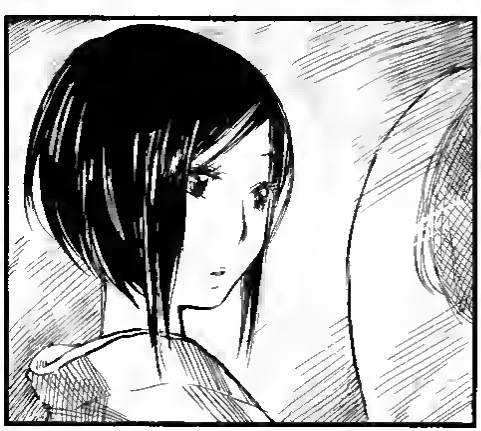
…
FOR You
むしゃ
むしゃ

HAHAHA, YOU POOR LITTLE LAMB.
CHOP
I thought he had a girlfriend...
MORI? YOU DIDN'T GET ANY?!
NONE AT ALL?!


WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DINNER?
NO.
YOU'VE EATEN ALREADY?


I ATE IT...
ALL OF IT.

WAIT,
THE CHOCO-LATE?!
YOU?!
YOU ATE ALL OF IT?!



YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
YOU'RE SO SILLY...
I COULD'VE HELPED, YOU KNOW...
I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS, THEN.
ガバ

W-WELL? Y-YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LAUGH, OR MAKE FUN OF ME.
哲生 love
BUT I JUST GAVE YOU SOMETHING YOU HATE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Happy valentine's day